The German Tribune

Hamburg, 8 February 1981
Twentieth Year - No. 975 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Soviet arms build-up key US concern

American Secretary of State Haig gave hints about what foreign policy he is likely to pursue when he appeared before the Senate.

But forecasts remain strictly speculative. Haig took good care not to commit the President, the new administration or himself.

Mr Haig is an eloquent general but at times he can be as secretive as Napoleon.

He has no intention of anticipating events and has even rejected the Republican Presidential platform on foreign policy, arguing that he had no part in drafting it.

So the outlines of US foreign policy under the Reagan administration can only be made out in a kind of mirror image.

The observer must make his inferences from the state of world affairs and how they are portrayed by the new administration.

The Reagan team does not doubt for a moment that the continual Soviet arms build-up has become a danger to the international order.

Soviet strategy is aimed at gaining superiority in each and every military sector, the objective being to change the world political system from this position of strength.

Afghanistan, as Washington sees it, is only one link in a chain including Angola, Ethiopia (and Cuba's role as the Soviet stand-in in fighting there); support for continual mischief-maker Libya, the treaty with Syria, military aid to Iraq, the acquisition of bases in Vietnam and Soviet tactics on the US hostages in Tehran.

They all testify to the Kremlin's determination to prise political hinges loose and to cross strategic thresholds, and the US response must be to step up its own arms build-up.

Yet America's regaining military power must not be taken as an aim in itself. More US arms are not intended to do no more than restore the balance of power.

The target is for US rearmament to lay the groundwork for an American diplomatic counter-offensive, with linkage being the keyword.

In other words, good behaviour by the other side is to be rewarded by good behaviour by the US. But if the Russians pursue blunt-instrument policies the United States will reply in kind.

Policies of understanding and compliance are to be replaced by resistance to the past course of events, followed by containment of inordinate Soviet activity.

Within this rough framework observers cannot yet distinguish finer foreign policy details with any certainty. The issues Secretary of State Haig may choose to emphasise will depend on his opposite number in the Kremlin.

But it is already clear that America will not be pursuing its foreign policies without the approval of its allies. As Nato C-in-C General Haig always stressed that Western strategy could only succeed if it were understood to be a strategy of mutual dependence.

So he plans to brief America's partners on his intentions and will be consulting them frequently.

He is nonetheless well aware that he will be dealing with allies reluctant to pursue alliance policies based no longer on detente at any price but on resistance to the Russians' policy of imperialist expansion.

Bonn, even more than Paris, will baulk at following in America's footsteps unconditionally on this score.

It will in any event to coordinate European interests (or what the Europeans consider to be their national interests) and the strategic concept adopted by the Reagan administration.

Mr Haig, who knows his Europe well, will hardly have any doubts in this respect.

Yet Europe should have no illusions about the tenacity of the Secretary of State. It was, after all, unable to persuade Dr Kissinger, an imaginative historian, to abandon a policy he had decided was right.

Haig, an artful military man, is unlikely to capitulate to European parish-pump policies or party-political resistance by Western parliaments.

When an issue is at stake, Mr Haig is inexorable. He is a slick operator and has no compunction in using the power differential as the motive force behind his strategy.

Differing interpretations of the Middle East situation could well emerge as a second element in Atlantic unrest.

President Reagan is known to regard support for Israel as more than a moral obligation; he views the Jewish state as a strategic base.

In this context the PLO is the enemy, at least for as long as it calls Israel's right to exist into question.

The President and his Secretary of State also feel the establishment of a network of US bases in the Middle East is necessary.

Europe, on the other hand, certainly London, Paris and Bonn, assess the situation by other yardsticks.

The countries of Western Europe feel they can only hope to keep the peace and safeguard their energy supplies by collaborating with the PLO and by observing military restraint.

Thus two totally different political views here clash, and in view of the importance President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig attach to this second front a compromise will be virtually out of the question in the long run.

Washington considers Russian behaviour in the Middle East as the latest indication that Moscow wants to change the world by force.

Nine months ago Mr Haig underwent open-heart surgery. His current dynamism would lead one to believe that he is his old self again.

Adelbert Weinstein

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 29 January 1981)

IN THIS ISSUE



Working lunch in Bonn

After seeing the 1981 budget through the Bonn Bundestag the Cabinet returned to the negotiating table to thrash out details of a compromise on industrial democracy in the coal and steel industries between the Free Democrats, led by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left), and the Social Democrats of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt (right). The two men are here seen tucking into a plate of pea soup in between coalition talks on this controversial issue. (Photo: dpa)

Defence issues central to new relationship

Friendly words crossed the Atlantic in both directions just before President Reagan took office. US secretary of State Haig for one said America's European allies were doing a fine job.

In doing so he diverted attention for a moment from the irksome debate on percentage points in defence spending by Nato countries.

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt singled out from Mr Haig's comments the passages that seemed best to correspond to his own government's views on continuation of arms limitation and talks with the Soviet Union.

He was trenchantly critical of fellow-Social Democrats who carp at the two-fold Nato decision to modernise nuclear armament in Europe while holding the door open for negotiations with the Warsaw Pact.

The SPD is split over defence spending. Chancellor Schmidt and SPD leaders have with difficulty repulsed a backbench bid to cut defence allocations by a seven-figure sum to be ploughed into development aid instead.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who is leader of the Free Democrats, Herr Schmidt's Bonn coalition partners, warned that any such move would have far-reaching consequences for the alliance.

This debate must be particularly unwelcome for the Bonn government since the cordial exchange on President Reagan's inauguration could hardly disguise the fact that the wherewithal for a clash between Washington and Bonn clearly exists.

Bonn's East-West policy continues to be more favourably disposed towards talks with Moscow, quite apart from specific German and trade policy interests.

The new US administration, on the other hand, can be expected, especially at a time when East-West ties are looking chillier, to make greater use of economic relations in the overall political context.

Trade ties could thus well be curbed for political motives.

The current debate on whether or not to sell Saudi Arabia German-made Leop-

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■ WORLD AFFAIRS

How Bonn's closed-door hostage diplomacy worked

DIE ZEIT

Just over a year ago two heavily-armed Iranian guards lolled about on duty outside the German embassy on Tehran's Ferdowsi Avenue.

Their German-made Heckler-Koch sub-machine guns looked reliable enough, which was more than could be said of their dishevelled revolutionary appearance.

On 18 December 1979, 44 days after the storming of the US embassy, strangely mixed feelings prevailed in the white-painted, two-storey building flying the German flag.

It was a combination, difficult to define, of anxiety and well-nigh Oriental equanimity.

Only in far-off Bonn did the world still look as though it was governed by regulations, and in Bonn the Foreign Office planned to replace a crucially important coding officer and send out a new man.

The replacement was strictly according to schedule but Gerhard Ritzel, Bonn's ambassador in Tehran, was a tired man and lost his patience.

He reached for the telephone and told Bonn that if a replacement were made at that crucial juncture he would throw in the towel, and that was that.

The noise at the other end was uneasy rustling in Bonn, followed by embarrassed murmurs. The replacement was shelved.

Just after the US hostages had been taken and the humiliated Americans sent 20 warships into the Persian Gulf, Dr Ritzel made the acquaintance in Tehran of the man who was to be his guide round the labyrinth of Iranian revolutionary power.

He was Iranian Deputy Premier Sadegh Tabatabai, and a year later his services saved President Carter from ignominy and President Reagan from the need to use force in Iran.

Dr Tabatabai, Ritzel's man in the game of revolutionary chess, came to be the vital link between the White House and the Ayatollah's paladins as far as the hostages were concerned.

Dr Ritzel, unlike US ambassador Sullivan, knew the "right people" in Tehran before the Shah abdicated. In the early 70s he worked in the Chancellor's Office under Willy Brandt, then served as ambassador in Oslo und Prague before being posted to Tehran.

Up against it in both domestic and foreign policy terms, President Carter, Dr Brzezinski, his national security adviser, and a number of State Department officials felt let down by their friends in Europe.

But while Washington wailed and gnashed its teeth, threatening to show the Iranians who was who, Bonn relied on the more dependable method of diplomacy behind closed doors.

Dr Ritzel, who was due to leave Iran in spring 1980, stayed put. He had attended sessions of the Revolutionary Council chaired by Ayatollah Beheshti, a body at that time still cloaked in secrecy; Iranian public opinion was still kept guessing as to its members.

A year later, in January 1981, Jimmy Carter's senior speechwriter Rick Hertzberg was sitting in the White House jet that was flying outgoing President Carter and his tired and depleted retinue to welcome the hostages to Frankfurt.

On his knees he balanced a notebook as he asked whether any country should be given special mention: "Do we want to thank anyone?"

Captain Gary Sick USN of the National Security Council, who had handled the daily White House Iran paperwork for 444 days, said: "Mention Germany in particular."

Hertzberg, who had never before heard of the strictly confidential German connection, promptly penned a few words of thanks for Mr Carter to say.

The Federal Republic, he said, had helped America in Tehran and at home in a way he could never disclose in public. The next day more than 20 grateful US citizens rang the German embassy in Washington to say thank you.

What Mr Carter felt unable to disclose during his stopover in Germany can in fact be reconstructed, both in outline and in bizarre details. It amounts to a unique diplomatic thriller.

"The first and original contacts Dr Ritzel made with the power circle around Khomeini", says Captain Sick, "eventually turned out to be the crucial prerequisite for getting the hostages out of imprisonment."

The unlikely key figure in the US embassy drama was a 37-year-old biochemist who had studied in Aachen, Dr Tabatabai, the brother-in-law of Khomeini jr.

A wanderer between two worlds, he was a lecturer at Bochum University before the Ayatollah took over. His wife is still in Bochum and he naturally speaks perfect German.

Shortly after the US embassy was taken over he held initial talks with Minister of State Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, Herr Schmidt's Mogadishu crisis manager.

The Bonn government briefed the Americans on these promising encounters between Dr Tabatabai and German diplomats and politicians.

Foreign Minister Genscher secretly conferred with him in Belgrade where each represented his country at Tito's funeral. In March 1980 they met again near Bonn.

Washington was kept posted. Schmidt and Genscher must have felt doubly duped when the US rescue bid was aborted in the Iranian salt desert.

On the day of the rescue bid, 24 April 1980, Germany forfeited its painstakingly amassed credibility with the Iranians.

Bonn felt it had been taken in, especially by President Carter, who had given his allies no advance warning of this risky military move.

That, for a while, was the end of Tabatabai's visits to Bonn. Dr Ritzel's job, the brief that kept him at his Tehran desk, was to try and put the pieces together again.

Personally he was more than willing to put paid to revolution and "go bear-hunting in the cooler climate of Canada." But the trophies he bagged in Iran proved well worth while.

In September Dr Tabatabai hinted that views were changing decisively in the Khomeini household. The original revolutionary justification for taking the hostages, the fact that the Shah was at large, no longer applied; he had died on the outskirts of Cairo.

Meanwhile military incidents were occurring with increasing frequency on the Iraqi border. The Ayatollah, the sick old mystic of Qom, evidently felt it was time to put his house in order.

Early in September the dapper Tabatabai told his German contacts that Khomeini would shortly be itemising four major demands. If the Americans ever wanted to see their kidnapped fellow-countrymen again they would have to accept the Imam's terms.

On 12 September the Imam spelt it out. America must first never again intervene in Iran's domestic affairs. Second, the frozen Iranian government assets must be unfrozen.

Third, the United States must lift its economic and legal sanctions on Iran and, fourth, transfer the assets of the late Shah.

Then the hostages would be freed, and in view of the nature of previous Iranian demands this did indeed seem to be the first serious offer on which to negotiate.

Six days later Sadegh Tabatabai and US Under-Secretary Warren Christopher held a promising meeting at a government guest house in Bonn.

But on 22 September war broke out between Iran and Iraq, ending for the time being US hopes of negotiating terms for the release of the hostages.

The German connection had gained access to the key to the problem, Khomeini's old-age stubbornness, in spring 1980, but it was some time before it bore fruit.

"The basis for the deal with Iran was laid in talks between the Germans and the Iranians", says Gary Sick. "The Algerians came into it because they were co-religionists and fraternal Third World revolutionaries."

The negotiations in Algiers took their time in January, partly because the State Department was handicapped by not a single ranking member of the US delegation being able to speak French.

Michael Naumann

(Die Zeit, 30 January 1981)

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ard tanks is not directly influenced by the United States.

But many aspects of it relate to the forthcoming transatlantic debate on division of labour within the Western alliance.

They likewise relate to relief of the burden the United States bears in stepping up its commitments in the Gulf — commitments which, in the final analysis, stand to be in the interest of safeguarding Western European commodity interests.

In view of current account deficits, high inflation rates and economic downturns the risk of trade protectionism on both sides is a further potential cause of conflict.

Chancellor Schmidt sounded the warning on this particular point some time ago.

The current domestic dispute on defence spending can only be to the detriment of ties between Bonn and Washington, regardless how important an increase in development aid may seem.

This is an incontestable fact and one that fine words will not paper over.

Eberhard Wisdorff

(Handelsblatt, 28 January 1981)

Food without surpluses crucial – Ertl

Handelsblatt

European Common Market ne[...] governments must come to [...] sensus on fundamental economic [...] says Bonn Agriculture Minister [...] Ertl.

He was speaking in Berlin [...] opening of the Green Week agri[...] show.

The development of farmers' inc[...] in the past few years was unsatis[...] he said, the temptation to compa[...] dividual years with particularly go[...] bad ones, and so make them the b[...] incomes policy debates, must be re[...]

Instead, we must bear long-term [...] velopments in mind. In doing so [...] would find that farmers' incomes [...] doubled in the past 10 years.

Farmers in industrialised cou[...] must be prepared to tackle much [...] problems the minister said.

This applied even more to the [...] loping countries whose meagre agri[...] ral production had been hard hit by [...] oil price explosion.

Poor harvests in East and West [...] China's debut on the world mark[...] well as international political te[...] had led to increased demand for [...] stuffs.

The Western world was natural[...] pected to have the necessary re[...] with which to jump into the brea[...] case of shortages. This was a moral [...] ligation that must be accepted for [...] manitarian reasons as in the case of [...] Africa and East Asian famines or fo[...] litical reasons, or out of a ge[...] neighbourliness as in the case of [...]

This showed the importance of [...] stocks although this must not be [...] as a carte blanche to produce sur[...] of products nobody needed.

Another major task for the [...] Herr Ertl said, was the use by ind[...] of regenerative raw materials. He[...] production of agricultural and fo[...] raw materials will compete with [...] production.

Western Europe had good oppo[...] ties to use excess production capa[...] as a means of expanding the ava[...] energy potential.

According to estimates, some [...] cent of the Community's energy [...] in the year 2000 could be met fro[...] generative natural resources.

(Handelsblatt, 23 January [...])

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: [...] Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English lang[...] sub-editor: Simon Burnett. – Distribution man[...] Georgine Picone.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schoene Aus[...] Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 85 1. Telex: 02-14733.

Advertising rates list No. 13 – Annual subscription DM 85.

Printed by Druck- und Verlagshaus Friedrich Pf[...] Bremen-Blumenthal. Distributed in the USA by: M[...] MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, [...] 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprints [...] published in cooperation with the editorial sta[...] leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Ger[...] ny. They are complete translations of the original te[...] no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GER[...] TRIBUNE also publishes quarterly supplem[...] featuring articles selected from German periodicals.

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HOME AFFAIRS

New West Berlin mayor to face early poll

Elections are to be held in West Berlin in May, nearly two years ahead [o]f schedule.

This means that the reign of Hans-[Jo]chen Vogel as Governing Mayor of [th]e city could be just a temporary meas[ure].

Herr Vogel, former Justice Minister in Bonn, was installed as mayor to defuse the crisis of the governing SPD/FDP coalition in the city.

It was a crisis that could have well broken up the Bonn coalition.

The two parties now at least have some breathing space. And even the opposition in Bonn, which in the face of the weakness of the government appears stronger than it is, must be hoping that the coalition will come out of its paralysis.

The coalition parties seem to have lost the desire to fulfil the mandate for which they were given such a big majority in October. At the moment they appear content to fight it out with each other.

The Social Democrats cannot come to terms with the fact that the October election shifted the weight in favour of the smaller coalition partner. So they keep bickering with all and sundry: with the electorate, the Chancellor, whom they accuse of lacking commitment to the cause, and — above all — with the FDP, whom they accuse of having outsmarted them in the coalition negotiations.

The atmosphere between the Bonn coalition partners has cooled. Frustration is rife.

Many MPs might feel that the coalition is coming to an end anyway because there is little common ground left.

To make matters worse, the strained financial situation and foreign policy considerations have greatly narrowed the scope of action. There is also no great vista that would give new impetus to the partners.

In addition, the wear and tear which is even more pronounced in the SPD than in the FDP.

The long time in government in Bonn has bled the Social Democrats of leadership personalities. As a result, they find it increasingly difficult to fill the ever more frequent gaps.

The Berlin crisis made this amply clear. First, Peter Glotz, the only above average political figure in Berlin, was summoned to Bonn because there was no suitable party secretary to be found there.

And after Dietrich Stobbe resigned, Vogel, one of the strongest figures in the Bonn cabinet, had to be sent to Berlin because that was the only way of stopping the decline of the Berlin SPD.

All this reveals more jittery tinkering and patchwork than a political concept.

But what should worry the Social Democrats even more is the fact that their three leading figures show clear signs of fatigue. They now watch the symptoms of disintegration — some sulkingly, some warningly and some worriedly as they try to stop the process.

After his resignation as Chancellor, Willy Brandt devoted himself largely to international affairs. Herbert Wehner, the party's great taskmaster, is finally feeling his age. He can see the groups and factions drifting apart but he lacks the power and authority to bring them back together.

And then there is Chancellor , Helmut Schmidt. Before the October election he was lauded as the party's biggest asset. But since then he has shown a lack of determination to chart the po-

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SPD censures rebel left-wing MP

[...]left-wing SPD MP Karl-Heinz Hansen, [...] been publicly censured by both Floor [Le]ader Herbert Wehner and Willy Brandt. [He]rr Hansen had sharply attacked the [C]hancellor in a newspaper article over [th]e Nato arms modernisation decision. A [se]nior party official has suggested that [He]rr Hansen resign from the SPD.

Nobody can say that Karl-Heinz Hansen is one of those MPs given [to] compromise and conforming. But this [is] the very reason why he has been poli[tic]ally ineffectual in Bonn.

In the good old days when the SPD [wa]s successful and self-assured, the 53-[ye]ar-old rebel enjoyed a jester's freedom. But three years ago he was the first [SP]D MP to be formally censured by his [par]liamentary party. In a British televi[sio]n broadcast he had accused the Bonn [gov]ernment of wanting to protect old [Naz]is in prominent positions from em[bar]rassing disclosures.

Other similarly tough attacks by Han[sen] followed. And even in extra parlia[men]tary moves he entered into alliances [tha]t could easily have earned him dis[cip]linary action by the SPD.

The fact that his latest attack on [Sch]midt caused such a commotion in [the] party is probably due to the SPD's [pr]esent state of nerves.

The dissatisfaction over the coalition [agr]eements is still rife in the SPD (as it [is] in the FDP), and the realisation that [eco]nomic developments will hardly leave [an]y scope for major legislative action [ha]s added to the bleak mood.

On the issue of nuclear energy the [SP]D is as split as was the coalition as a [wh]ole over labour participation in the [coa]l and steel industry. And the Berlin [cri]sis has shaken the SPD even more [tha]n it has the liberals.

In this situation, opposition has now [ari]sen in exactly that sector that has [bee]n considered the cement uniting [SP]D and FDP: the sector of foreign and [sec]urity policy.

Herbert Wehner, never one to mince [wor]ds on such issues, suddenly reacted [as i]f the coalition were in acute danger.

The fear of the Social Democrats that [the] FDP could leave the coalition is evi[den]tly stronger than the FDP's intention [to] do so.

[B]ut the SPD's nervousness and a tendency to overreact could bring about [suc]h a contingency.

Nobody in Bonn seriously denies that [the] form of Hansen's statements [dese]rves censure. But it would be a bad [thin]g if after the public censuring of [Han]sen nobody in the SPD would dare [to] openly and indeed toughly discuss [ind]ividual issues.

([Nür]nberger Nachrichten, 29 January 1981)

Chancellor bounces back as crisis manager

Nordwest Zeitung

Helmut Schmidt does not intend to enter the fray in the Bundestag budget debate until the last day.

At the beginning of the debate it seemed as if the Chancellor was sitting on the government bench licking his wounds — a man whose party was in a state of unrest and rehearsing a minor rebellion.

But now he can take up the opposition's challenge as a Chancellor whom the coalition partners have once more assured of their loyalty and whose parliamentary party has distanced itself from the rebels more clearly than previously considered possible.

In a special session, the cabinet will pass the government draft for the extension of the Coal and Steel Labour participation Act.

This will implement a coalition agreement which, if not followed through, could have spelled the downfall of the Social Democratic/liberal alliance.

The long tug-of-war over the correct interpretation of the controversial declaration of intent has badly harmed the SPD/FDP coalition's prestige; but in the end SPD Floor Leader Herbert Wehner, who had said the coalition partners would weather the storm, was proved right.

It is certain that Wehner had a hand in bringing about the compromise now to be given the cabinet's blessing.

His clearly expressed disaffection with the long dispute over the issue could well have prompted the Chancellor to intervene and settle the matter.

It is due to Schmidt's clever negotiating tactics that the Free Democrats, who had to make considerable concessions, were nevertheless satisfied with the outcome.

In the past, Helmut Schmidt had had to make so many concessions to the liberals that caused dissatisfaction in his own party. Now he has probably turned the tables on the FDP.

He will come out of the whole affair with his authority strengthened and will be able to rally his party's support in the coming dispute with the trade unions.

The labour participation compromise was a major hurdle but others are in the offing.

The unions are unlikely to accept the fact that they are to be stripped of direct access to the coveted Supervisory Board seats under the Coal and Steel Labour Participation Act without putting up a fight.

This provision is a success the FDP can chalk up for itself, but Schmidt can point to the fact that he checked more far-reaching liberal demands and in doing so even strengthened the coalition.

The Chancellor has thus polished up his warning image as a crisis manager; and Wehner seems to have played a considerable part in this. *Hans Wolff*

(Nordwest Zeitung, 30 January 1981)

Schmidt takes it in his stride

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt sees no real problem in the lack-lustre start of the governing coalition in the new legislative period.

SPD rank-and-file displeasure over how the party came out of the coalition talks with the FDP and the FDP displeasure at the resultant SPD bickering are just peripheral issues, says the Chancellor. At least that is what his advisers say.

Schmidt, as sensitive as a seismograph in registering political tremors, realises of course that much of the unrest is directed at him personally.

Many party members say that his policy statement was too wishy-washy.

On the other hand, the FDP is complaining because the Chancellor is unable to restore peace in his own camp.

In any case, the Chancellor is determined to make up for apparent or actual lack of political action. He will probably make a start in the budget debate.

The ado over peripheral issues has been enervating for him: he regards it as pettiness.

But he tends to underestimate the effect on the party morale of the sum total of petty issues.

Schmidt's main rallying call for his team is the economic situation, which is evidently much more serious than officially admitted.

There are fears in the Chancellery that unemployment might reach the highest level since the recession of the 1970s.

The balance-of-payments deficit and the remedy of the problem is for him one of the main political tasks because of the export dependence of this country. He has given this priority over other political issues.

Safeguarding the economy of the country goes hand-in-hand for Schmidt with a steady course and hence credibility on the foreign policy front.

This includes sticking to the Nato modernisation decision which Schmidt is determined of defend against critics from his own ranks by threatening to resign.

Closer ties with America are to end the phase of relative freedom of action for Bonn as practised last year.

This country's credibility also, as Schmidt sees it, includes honouring commitments even if they concern the supply of submarines to Chile.

Political cooperation with Saudi Arabia is a must in the Chancellor's eyes and this involves arms deals as well, which now seem to involve more than the 3,000 Leopard tanks originally under discussions.

Schmidt takes Saudi Arabia's interest in cooperating with Bonn particularly seriously in view of the West's position in the Gulf region ... not only because Saudi Arabia has become this country's biggest lender but because the Saudis are rather reserved towards Washington's Israel policy. But Bonn, too, still has to take the hurdle of Israeli objections.

To enable him to pay for the increased foreign and internal commitments at a time when tax revenues are likely to fall short of expectations, the Chancellor wants to prepare the coalition for more state debt and a supplementary budget.

In fact, he might well have bitten off more than he can chew.

Hans Jörg Sottorf

(Handelsblatt, 26 January 1981)

■ PEOPLE

Vogel, the man for the SPD hour of need

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Hans-Jochen Vogel can hardly have relished the task of rushing to the rescue of the Social and Free Democratic coalition in Berlin.

The SPD's choice of the former Munich mayor and Bonn Cabinet Minister to take over as Governing Mayor in the divided city only shows how seriously the Social Democrats consider the situation.

There is indeed no other reason to account for Dr Vogel's agreeing to abandon a safe Cabinet job in Bonn, especially as his standing in the party had for some time been improving imperceptibly but steadily.

Dubbed a right-winger in party infighting dating back to his Munich days, he has gradually moved towards the centre in the SPD, perhaps even a little further to the left, yet in no way has this jeopardised his reputation for statesmanship and level-headed reliability.

The Social Democratic Party is a sensitive organisation. If a man like Vogel were to refuse to serve it in an hour of need he could well write off a credit rating that had taken months to earn.

Herr Vogel could tell a tale or two about his relationship with the party over the years since he was elected mayor of Munich at the age of 34 in 1960.

Many begrudged him his mayoralty at the time. It was widely welcomed as a breakthrough for the younger generation in a country still governed largely by the pre-1933 generation.

Hans-Jochen Vogel in Munich was 34, Konrad Adenauer in Bonn was 84. He was bound to be hailed, through no fault of his own, as a champion of youth pitted against old men with outmoded ideas.

This laid him wide open to allegations of self-satisfaction.

Understandably or not, there must have been many tried and trusted officials who were envious of the meteoric rise to power of a young man with an undeniably middle-class background.

After the Munich Olympics he was reelected for a second term by a handsome majority, but in the wake of party squabbles he chose not to stand a third time.

Instead he moved to Bonn in 1972, beginning with the housing portfolio, which did not promise to bring him much kudos.

But in 1974, when Helmut Schmidt took over from Willy Brandt as Chancellor, he became Minister of Justice, a classic portfolio.

At the Justice Ministry, the post he recently quit to move to Berlin, his task was initially to implement with modifications the reform programme launched by his much-misunderstood predecessor, Gerhard Jahn.

This task he accomplished with aplomb. He has never tired of reminding the Christian Democrats, for instance, that they gave partial blessing to the unsatisfactory divorce law reform.

He has a point, although it is truer to say that the CDU/CSU voted for the Divorce Act as the majority party in the Bundesrat, or upper house of the Bonn Bundestag, which arguably need not be consulted on issues of this kind anyway.

As a Roman Catholic he objected to abortion on demand within a set period. He was born in 1926 the son of a university professor in Göttingen and grew up in Giessen. He still speaks with a slight Bavarian accent.

But with a keen sense of the lie of the land he immediately espoused the cause of waiving the statute of limitations on Nazi crimes against humanity.

Politicians over 50 can seldom change their spots, yet Herr Vogel has succeeded in shedding the damaging impression he used to convey of knowing everything, knowing everything better and being terribly sorry but there was nothing he could do about it, so there it was.

He has set right what were initially not the best of relations with Chancellor Schmidt, who in the manner of autocrats of the past does not normally take kindly to the legal profession.

He has come to terms with Interior Minister Gerhart Baum, who is not the easiest of men to get on with, and he has also managed to gain the upper hand, at least outwardly, over his extremely thin skin.

If his bid to salvage SPD-FDP power at the polls in Berlin on 10 May fails, it will do his party-political career no harm.

He will have shown that even when in the party's good books he is not a man to let the SPD down when it calls on him to save the day, regardless whether or not the bid is successful.

Friedrich Karl Fromme
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 January 1981)


Jürgen Schmude

Schmude is the new Justice Minister

Jürgen Schmude, ex-Educatio[n] now Justice Minister after th[e] January Bonn Cabinet reshuffle, i[s a] man given to the fashionable [...] personalising politics.

This was a drawback where the [educa]tion portfolio was concerned but i[s] of an advantage at the Justice M[inistry] and reserve is certainly a hallmark [of the] 44-year-old East Prussian's charact[er].

Dr Schmude, who took over [from] Hans-Jochen Vogel, now mayor [of Ber]lin, has surely found the Cabinet [post for] which he is ideally suited.

He holds a PhD in law, is [married] with two children and has been [a mem]ber of the Social Democratic Par[ty since] 1957.

He was first elected to the Bund[estag] in 1969, previously working as a [lawyer] in the Essen practice of Gustav [Heine]mann.

Dr Heinemann, who himse[lf] served as Justice Minister in the [...] Grand Coalition, was then head [of ...] This link between Heinemann [and] Schmude is more than mere [coinci]dence.

Characteristics they shared [...] straightforward, objective outlook [...] commitment to the Church, but [Herr] Schmude is by no means a young[er ver]sion of the late Dr Heinemann.

He lacks (or has so far show[n no] signs of) the distinctive, down-to[-earth,] at times even churlish attitude [of his] one-time predecessor.

Herr Schmude has been a senio[r ...] in Bonn ever since Helmut Sc[hmidt] took over as Chancellor in 1974, [and it] is easy to imagine what qualitie[s] Schmidt appreciates in him.

He is an able thinker, a seriou[s ...] with a dislike of playing to the g[allery;] in a word: steady. In 1974 he w[as ap]pointed parliamentary state secreta[ry at] the Interior Ministry.

He spent two years under W[erner] Maihofer, a Free Democrat, at the [Min]istry of the Interior, but did not s[ee his] role as that of an SPD watchdog [in an] FDP-run Ministry.

He saw himself more as a link [between] the trade unions and other group[s who] could be considered to have SPD [lean]ings and were not necessarily we[ll dis]posed towards a Ministry run by [a rep]resentative of another party.

In 1976 the system of appo[inting] SPD under-secretaries to FDP Mi[nisters] and vice-versa was abandoned.

Continued on page 9

Björn Engholm, Jürgen Schmude's successor as Minister of Education in Bonn, is considered a moderate left-winger in the Social Democratic Party.

Engholm aware of education portfolio limits

He is one of a category of smart, presentable young men like Volker Hauff and Andreas von Bülow from among whose ranks Chancellor Schmidt has increasingly come to recruit Cabinet members.

Herr Engholm, 41, is a good-looking Lübeck man who came to the attention of both the Chancellor and parliamentary party leader Herbert Wehner.

After an initial period spent letting off steam as a backbencher he has gone on to prove a reliable, hard-working committee man.

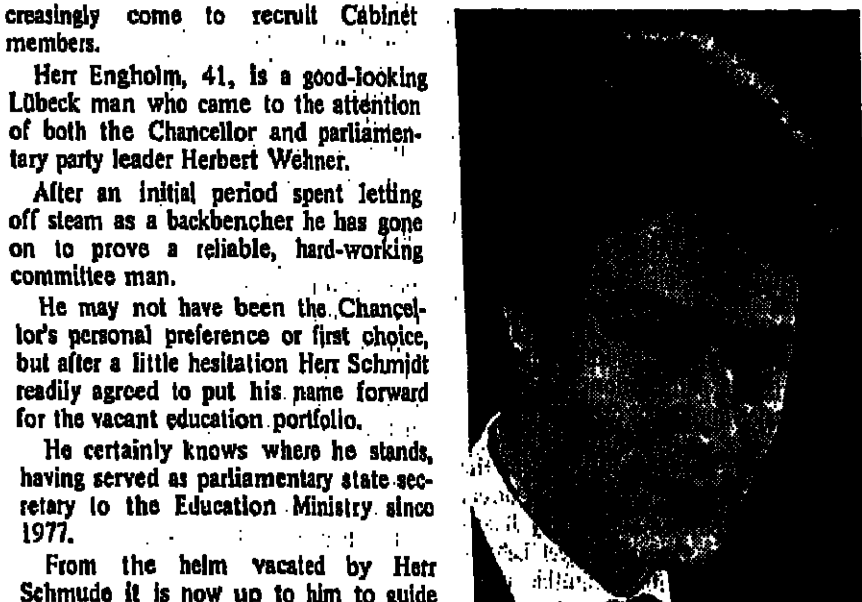
He may not have been the Chancellor's personal preference or first choice, but after a little hesitation Herr Schmidt readily agreed to put his name forward for the vacant education portfolio.

He certainly knows where he stands, having served as parliamentary state secretary to the Education Ministry since 1977.

From the helm vacated by Herr Schmude it is now up to him to guide through the Bundestag vocational training projects, improvements in the grants system and measures to promote junior academic staff at universities and research facilities.

He is married with two daughters and was a print worker before taking university entrance exams at night school and a degree in political studies in Hamburg.

He is a man who knows from the inside how newspapers work and went as a mature student to the Academy of Economic and Political Affairs in Hamburg.


Björn Engholm
(Photos: Sven Simon)

He was elected to the Bundestag in 1969, unseating the sitting CDU constituency member. He has been a Social Democrat since 1962.

Despite his swift rise to authority in the party and a government career in Bonn he retains close ties with his home base, Lübeck.

At the selection committee meeting for last year's general election candidate 150 out of 156 Lübeck Social Democrats voted in his favour.

As his first name indicates, his family are of Swedish descent, having made its way to Lübeck a generation and a half ago via Mecklenburg.

His father was generally thought of as conservative in political outlook, and he too first tried his hand with the Young Democrats, the youth organisation of the FDP.

But he joined his trade union, then the SPD, where he is considered a member of middle-class origin of the kind who have completely refashioned the erstwhile working-class SPD over the past 20 years.

Yet he is better acquainted than many a left-wing theoretician with the world of work. He sees himself as a practitioner with an ability to learn. He has no illusions; he has perspectives.

Illusions are certainly out of place at the Education Ministry. The Minister's leeway is severely curtailed by the rights of the *Länder*.

This is said to have been one of the reasons why the Chancellor's first choice, Anke Fuchs, preferred not to take up the offer.

But Herr Engholm is well aware of the range of his political terrain. Providing he puts it to good use his career in Bonn is unlikely to have peaked yet.

Ekkehard Kohrs
(General-Anzeiger, 28 January 1981)

THE EEC

Delay in fixing fish quotas holds up agreements outside Europe

[T]he unsolved issue of catch quotas has created an ugly mood in the [Ger]man fishing industry. Owners and [...]s of trawlers have made angry pro[tests].

[A]n Icelandic vessel was prevented [fro]m landing its catch in Cuxhaven and [dele]gations of fishermen went to Bonn [and] Brussels to protests over the failure [to] come to an agreement after three [...] of talks.

[T]he Council of Ministers has been [una]ble to assign quotas for EEC waters, [thu]s making it impossible to initial [agr]eements with Norway, Canada and [Ar]gentina.

These agreements provide for a swap [of] quotas which would entail the admis[sio]n of non-EEC fishermen to Com[mu]nity waters and vice versa, resulting [fro]m the extensions of the economic [zon]e to 200 nautical miles.

First it was Britain that for years in[sis]ted on the sole exploitation of its 12-[mi]le territorial waters — a stance that [wa]s counter to the EEC Treaty and that [wa]s foisted on the British government [by] the strong fishing industry lobby [wh]ich was worried about the loss of [job]s.

It was not until the December session [of] the Council of Ministers that Britain [int]imated a certain willingness to talk [on] the issue. But then the Danes and [th]e French raised reservations, and the [me]eting ended without any results.

The German fishing fleet, which was ready to cast off for Canadian waters, naturally began to worry about the future. Some 130 fishermen have been idle, waiting for permission to go.

Of Germany's still operational factory trawlers, 13 are immobilised in North Sea ports. The rest have left for fishing grounds near Greenland to catch bass. This has angered the Danes because they feel that the German fishermen are taking advantage of the fact that the EEC has so far failed to establish quotas for bass.

The point is that these trawlers should not be seeking bass but the much more lucrative cod off the shores of Canada. For various reasons, the only suitable time for cod fishing off Canada is January and February — and January is already over.

The daily loss to the shipowers because of the delay in agreement is DM300,000 and they are insisting on being compensated by Bonn.

For the time being the consumer will remain unaffected by the EEC "fish war". Germany's distant water fishing industry last year came back with 64,000 tons of fish, about half of Germany's needs.

But day-to-day prices are dictated by the landings of fresh rather than frozen fish and here Germany's inshore fishermen accounted for 45,000 tons last year. The rest came from imports which are on the rise following the extension of economic zones to 200 miles.

Should fish prices rise in the next few weeks, this would clearly be because less fresh fish is being landed, due to poorer catches.

The damage caused by overfishing in the past few years can no longer be quickly remedied by stringent controls.

Though these controls have been successful to some extent and herring stocks seem to be improving, it will take a number of years to overcome the consequences of overfishing and pollution.

One problem in luring major imports to German auctions along the North Sea coast and so keeping a check on prices has been the strength of the dollar in the past few weeks.

It stands to reason that the stronger the dollar against the EEC currencies the greater the incentive for Norwegian and Icelandic fishermen to take their catches to America. This, together with the fact that the factory trawlers are sho-rebound, could lead to price increases.

There is likely to be a plentiful supply of bass in the next few weeks, but cod, which plays an important role in the canning industry, could be in short supply because German trawlers have been barred from Norwegian waters as well.

Gerd Achilles
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 30 January 1981)

'Baby beef' allocation gives ministers a headache

The issue of what the EEC calls "baby beef" has overtaxed foreign ministers of the Community just as it had the agriculture ministers before them.

At stake is how much Yugoslavia should be allowed to send to the Community.

The EEC is rarely convincing when it deals with trade concessions.

But it has been close to the absurd over the past few weeks.

As if there were nothing more important to deal with, the foreign ministers met personally in Brussels over the "baby beef" question.

Another point under dispute that has been a permanent item on the Brussels agenda for months is the New Zealand butter quota.

When Britain joined the Community, New Zealand was allowed to continue flooding the British market during a transition period. The question now is whether the transition period is to be ended or whether it is to become permanent.

The baby beef case is an example of how hard put the EEC is in reconciling political aspirations and individual economic interests. In fact, the Community seems paralysed every time it comes to the crunch and is made mock of by its negotiating partners.

The foreign ministers had tried for years to tie Yugoslavia closer to the Community through economic cooperation agreements. But even this essentially politically motivated move came close to foundering when France and Ireland opposed the importing of a couple of thousand tons of beefs a month.

The membership of Greece has now given the problem an entirely new dimension because that country ranks among the traditional buyers of baby beef. The Community producers expect that their exports will rise in inverse proportion to the quantity of meat imported from outside the Community.

The special butter deal for New Zealand has even bared ideological differences that are entirely out of proportion to the importance of the whole thing.

The French ask themselves whether non-Community members should be provided with the same market conditions for their agricultural exports as are the members.

After all, the Community has more butter than it knows what to do with and the New Zealanders have been reluctant to meet the Community half way on the issue of importing European steel and steel products.

Granted, the EEC must uphold a preference arrangement for products from other member nations if it wants to be more than just a free trade zone. But on the other hand the fathers of the Community were clearly committed in the Treaties of Rome to a liberal foreign trade policy.

Those articles of the Community Treaty that are designed to secure the incomes of farmers and stabilise the Community's agricultural market tend to gain the upper hand in day-to-day EEC disputes.

By the same token, provisions whereby the EEC must contribute towards a hamonious development of world trade and the removal of barriers and tariffs in international trade are usually swept under the carpet or difficult to implement.

It is an established fact that the EEC is the biggest importer of agricultural products. But it is also an established fact that it has progressed beyond self-sufficiency in food.

As a result, the EEC's agricultural products are now crowding world markets and changing the classical flow of trade.

The EEC is hard put to sell its surpluses without costly subsidies.

There is little likelihood that the envisaged amendment of Europe's agricultural policy will change this situation. In fact, there is not less but more trouble in store concerning foreign trade.

It is easy to predict that Community farmers will only agree to cutbacks on their generous subsidies through price and purchase guarantees of Brussels erects barriers against imports. This makes a further opening of Community borders most unlikely.

Yet the Community has a vested interest in securing free world trade — and that goes for agricultural products as well.

After all, import restrictions of necessity lead to counter measures by other countries. And exports are vital to the Community.

With all due regard for the EEC's internal problems, a slightly more liberal attitude would not be out of place — and that goes for baby beef as it does for other products.

Wilhelm Hadler
(Die Welt, 23 January 1981)

■ THE ECONOMY

No miracle weapon, says Bundesbank chief

This is the text of a speech by Bundesbank president Karl Otto Pöhl which, because of its candor about the economic situation, was widely praised.

Many Western countries find themselves in circumstances that could hardly be worse. They have huge balance of payments deficits which, compared with GNP, are in some instances twice as large as Germany's deficit.

A growing number of countries — especially in the Third World — are nearing the limit of credit-worthiness because their debt servicing takes up an ever larger portion of their export earnings and because they find it increasingly difficult to pay for their imports.

There is hardly a government that does not, like Laocoon, find itself struggling with the serpents of growing budgetary deficits and without a silver lining in sight.

Not only in some developing countries but in a number of European countries as well the public sector deficit now stands at 10 per cent or even more of GNP. In this country, the deficit is only 3.5 per cent, but this is not much of a consolation.

Wherever you look there is an unprecedented combination of inflation and unemployment.

Here, too, Germany is better off than most other industrial countries. Not only do we have the lowest inflation rate but also less unemployment than any other major industrial nation.

But who would want to put up with an inflation rate of 5.5 per cent and more than one million jobless? The more so considering that the number of jobless is likely to continue to rise in the next few months because it is most unlikely that there will be an economic upswing. Instead, the present stagnation which we have had since the early summer is likely to continue for a while. And unfortunately it is even possible that the GNP will shrink.

We must analyse the situation, warts and all, and then draw the right conclusions.

The decisive factor is that the foreign trade position of this country has changed drastically in the past 18 months — and not only because of our high oil bill.

What has happened is that other imports have also been rising more steeply in the past few years than have exports. This means that our balance of trade has deteriorated considerably — again not only because of the oil price increases.

At the same time, the deficit in our balance sheet for services grew between 1978 and 1980 from about DM 8bn by more than DM 7bn to DM 15bn. This is partly due to the German's unchecked yen for foreign travel — a field where we hold the world record.

Our balance of payments deficit is a fact that cannot be altered either by Minimising its effects or by intelligent explanations — such as the fact that Opec surpluses must be matched by corresponding deficits, which is perfectly true.

The implications of the deficit are far-reaching, among other things for the international position of the deutschemark, the exchange rate, prices and interest rates: 1980 was telling in this respect, but I fear that we shall be taught some more lessons.

We are not in a situation of economic weakness that can be handled with the classical steering instruments as in 1966 and even in 1975 when the difficulties were relatively easily overcome.

Along with other industrial countries, we now find ourselves in a process of restructuring and adaptation to new data that come from without.

This has led to consequences for our economic and finance policy, for the wage policy and for monetary policy. The conclusions should be evident but they have not been drawn in all sectors.

So far as our economic and finance policy is concerned, we must not delude ourselves that additional spending could generate sustained employment. In fact, the opposite could well be the case.

Regional public sector deficits will be unavoidably higher this year because they will be dictated by the state of the economy.

Accepting such deficits could result in higher rather than lower interest rates. In the long run, this would not promote growth and hence employment but could well hamper it.

Moreover, any increase in public spending tends to increase the balance of payments deficit.

Eliminating obstacles to the many billions worth of already planned investments would be a lot better than engaging in an even more expansive financial policy — our present financial policy is by no means restrictive.

I consider it particularly embarrassing that it is frequently the same people who demand more government spending who are blocking urgently needed investments. The Brokdorf nuclear power station is but one example.

We should also abandon illusions regarding our energy policy. Time works against us. The starting position in this sector is much more favourable abroad than in this country — not only in Britain, which is independent for its oil supply, but also in the United States, Canada and France. The latter country has long had an extensive nuclear energy programme.

If we miss the boat here, the consequences to growth and employment in this country will by grave.

The new situation must also be clearly understood when making wage or incomes policy.

I respect the autonomy of the parties to collective bargaining and therefore don't want to interfere in the bargaining process. But all concerned must know that the parties to collective bargaining will be deciding not only on wage increases but also on the profits of our business community, on investments and, hence, employment.

Nobody should delude himself that the Bundesbank will cover up for wrong decisions on the collective bargaining front by relaxing its monetary policy.

Naturally, lower interest rates, for which there is a rising clamour, would be useful for the financing of investments and would help the economy.

But how are interest rates to be lowered in the face of the public sector's enormous borrowing requirements and in the face of a current account deficit that cannot be financed forever by dipping into our foreign exchange reserves and that must therefore be financed through capital imports?

Granted, seen from a historic vantage point, our interest rates are relatively high and perhaps too high considering the economic situation. But by comparison on an international scale they are low — lower than in most other industrial countries.

This has led to a considerable outflow of capital in the past few months and to pressure on the deutschemark exchange rate. A reduction of the interest rate would aggravate this trend. There is no such thing as a miracle weapon against this simple set of circumstances.

Currency restrictions and controls on capital exports are no way out of the dilemma for a country like the Federal Republic of Germany.

On the contrary, this would only aggravate the problem because it would undermine the faith abroad in the deutschemark.

As a result, we can only hope that interest rates will go down on the international money markets, especially in the United States, and that there will thus be more scope of action for our own monetary policy.

As I said before, it would certainly be desirable to have lower interest rates. But it is even more important to preserve the stability of our currency and the competitiveness of our business community.

Karl Otto Pöhl

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 22 January 1981)

Berlin poll

Continued from page 3

litical course as should have been his duty under the Constitution.

Months of stress and the responsibility for election results that many Social Democrats consider only just short of a defeat have left their mark.

Along with the FDP coalition partner, the public as a whole now waits for the Chancellor to throw his authority into the breach and take a firm hold of the reins.

But the very way in which Helmut Schmidt keeps evading the necessary decision on future energy supplies gives rise to doubts as to his determination.

Perhaps he senses that time is running out for the SPD and that it is not even certain that the coalition will survive until the next election in 1984.

Is the Chancellor's resigned attitude due to his knowing that not only politicians but parties as well fall prey to the wear and tear of government? Their end can come abruptly at times, and frequently there are signs before the crunch.

The decline of the CDU/CSU, for instance, was in the air long before 1969.

The whole thing is a natural process and there is no reason to bemoan the fact that the SPD might be sent to the opposition benches in 1984.

But unless Schmidt and Genscher are prepared to quit before their time they had better roll up their sleeves and tackle the problems at hand. The general climate being what it is, we can neither afford a lasting depression nor a protracted decrepitude.

Ludwig Harms

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 January 1981)

Prospects fo[r] exports 'still risky'

The outlook for Germany's f[oreign] trade remains risky because o[f the] economic decline of Western ind[ustrial] countries, according to a spokesma[n of] industry and commerce.

Otto Wolff von Amerongen, pr[esident] of the standing conference of Ge[rman] chambers of commerce and ind[ustry] (DIHT), said that loss of buying po[wer by] Germany's Western trading partne[rs was] a result of the oil bill.

It was by no means a coinc[idence] that, in speaking on our foreign [trade] he also mentioned the controversy [over] German arms exports and the envis[aged] natural gas-for-pipelines deal with [the] Soviet Union.

His analysis only confirmed the [un]favourable forecasts for this cou[ntry's] foreign trade.

The purchasing ability of our We[stern] trading partners has suffered due t[o loss] of buying power as a result of th[e oil] bill and the resulting economic de[cline,] inflation and balance of payments [defi]cits.

There was little to indicate, he [said,] that a new upswing was in store fo[r the] Western industrial countries, the [main] buyers of our goods.

Exports to Eastern Bloc cou[ntries] are hampered by acute balance of [pay]ments problems and shortages of fo[reign] exchange in those countries.

The same goes for many thi[rd world] countries and even more so for [the] oil-importing developing nations.

In view of all this, von Ameron[gen is] in favour of the natural gas dea[l with] the Soviet Union.

As to the arms export issue, he [fa]vours restraint even in economicall[y dif]ficult times but indirectly envisag[es the] possibility of supplying Saudi A[rabia] with the tanks it wants if politi[cal rea]sons speak in favour of it.

His address shows that the role o[f the] state in formulating essential fram[ework] data for foreign trade has gained i[m]portance in the past few years.

Foreign policy is largely also f[or] economic policy and will be even [more] so in the future.

Incidentally, this was the reason [given] by ex-President Carter's national se[curity] adviser for his demand that future [world] economic summits of the West be[come] general strategy summits.

This interaction has been evide[nt in] development aid for a long time, [as it] has been regarding the supply of n[uclear] power stations.

Among the new examples are the [dis]cussion over the sale of tanks to S[audi] Arabia, our dependence on oil and o[ther] raw materials, the dispute over the [dis]tribution of burdens within the All[iance] and the drafting of an overall We[stern] concept in the wake of Afghanistan.

Bonn is shortly to redraft its principles for arms exports.

But the question is whether t[here] should not be an additional proce[ss of] constant coordination of foreign [trade] principles.

In any event, so far as develop[ment] policy is concerned the dispute ove[r the] strategies of various governm[ent] departments broke out once he[re] during the 1976 Unctad Confere[nce in] Nairobi.

Eberhard Wis[...]

(Handelsblatt, 21 Janu[ary 1981])

DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Reshuffled conservative line-up to contest government views

[T]he first development policy debate [o]f the new Bundestag will be mark[ed b]y a number of new faces among the [back]benchers. But does that mean that [Bonn']s development policy will also ac[quire] a new face?

[Th]e question comes to mind because [there] is so much talk and guessing [about] a new development policy style — [part]ly due to the new CDU/CSU de[velop]ment policy spokesman in Parlia[ment], Elmar Pieroth.

[Th]e conservatives are entering the de[velop]ment fray with a reshuffled team. [They] see development policy as being [closel]y linked with foreign and security [polic]y, for which Manfred Wörner is the [spokes]man.

[He] is closely assisted by a develop[men]t policy troika which, apart from [Piero]th, includes Volkmar Köhler and [...] Günther Hüsch, the deputy [chair]man of the Bundestag develop[ment] aid committee.

[Pi]eroth is tackling the new task with [his] usual elan. Though he would have [pref]erred to have remained his party's [eco]nomic policy spokesman, develop[men]t policy is anything but secondary [to hi]m.

[He] has been involved in development [for m]any years and thus comes to the [job we]ll equipped.

[He i]s a wine grower (his company has [a payr]oll of 3,500) whose experience [in] private development aid dates back [to th]e 1960s. And for the past five years [he ha]s been aid advisor to a number of [deve]loping countries.

[Pi]eroth will keep his finger in eco[nom]ic affairs as a deputy member of the [Eco]nomic Policy Committee; and he [will] also have a finger in the foreign [polic]y pie due to his close cooperation [with] Walther Leisler Kiep, the Opposit[ion s]pokesman on foreign affairs.

[Pi]eroth's deputy, Köhler, has enjoyed [an ex]cellent reputation among commit[ted] development protagonists through [two le]gislative periods.

[He] has also had a great deal of practi[cal ex]perience as a top executive of [Volks]wagen.

[Hüs]ch, a lawyer by profession, is an [able] parliamentarian who spent many [years] in the North Rhine-Westphalia [State] Assembly and is a highly industri[ous a]nd committed development man.

[In] fact, the SPD/FDP coalition has a [great] deal of respect for this trio.

[Th]e opposition conservatives with [their] new team are likely to become [formi]dable parliamentary opponents — [thoug]h the style of their opposition will [be ma]rked by polish and politeness.

[Uw]e Holtz, SPD development spo[kesm]an since 1974 and chairman of the [Comm]ittee, stresses that politeness [shoul]d be taken for granted and that it [is not] the style of the discussion but the [issues] at stake that matter.

[Piero]th takes it as read that develop[ment] policy makers should not go at [each] other like fighting cocks, and he [feels] that no more should be said on the [subjec]t. A new style for him means a [critic]al stocktaking; and this essentially [means] calling on the government to endow development policy with more credibility and clarity and strip it of ideology.

There is much that government and opposition have in common, he holds. Both make it absolutely clear that the poorest in the developing countries must be helped as quickly as possible and that basic needs must be satisfied.

But there are many issues on which coalition and opposition don't see eye to eye.

Holtz, for instance, wants to know from the conservatives what they think of a change in the international economic order, what their ideas are on the Common Fund in the raw materials sector and, finally, what attitude they take towards liberation movements.

Here, there is nothing that the CDU/CSU has in common with the coalition, and the SPD/FDP would be well advised not to take the reshuffle as a change of course.

Pieroth opposes any tampering with international economic and raw materials policy and the existing order.

What is needed according to him is an improvement of conditions for a market based economy and at the same time social order.

Holtz, on the other hand, presses for change, pointing to the 1977 SPD/FDP resolution to the effect that "the objective of measures adopted in our North-South policy must be to contribute to a more efficient, just and social international economy."

Concerning the dispute between opposition and coalition on which countries should receive development aid, Pieroth's answer is clearcut: "Everybody who is poor is our friend."

But this applies to the people in the Third World and not to right or left dictatorships. Help, he says, must reach those for whom it is intended. It must not be permitted to disappear in the pockets of corrupt officials nor must it be permitted to disappear in the bottomless pit of socialist experiments.

As to the liberation movements, he holds that not all movements thus labelled fight for freedom.

Holtz stresses that the SPD does not support every liberation movement but only those that strive for democracy.

It can already be taken for certain that development policy will receive more attention in the new legislative period.

Chancellor Schmidt for the first time dealt with development policy at some length in his government policy statement. And for the first time a parliamentary debate following the policy statement dealt with development policy as well.

The growing importance of this policy in the Bundestag is also borne out by the fact that there was a considerable clamouring in all parties for membership in the Development Policy Committee. In fact, many of those who wanted to be members wound up empty-handed.

This is in sharp contrast to the previous legislative period when many MPs took their seats on the Development Committee because they were unable to get on to one of the other committees.

Those who now belong to the Committee are bound to take a firm stand on behalf of the Third World. There are development experts even among the newcomers to the Bundestag.

They familiarised themselves with development work through special courses or through development projects operated by the Churches.

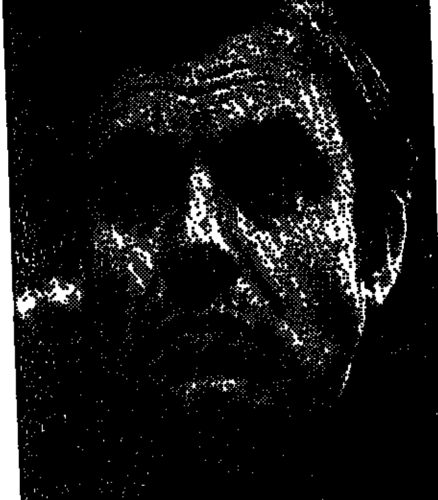
Conspicuously, there are a number of extreme left wingers among the SPD members of the Committee. In fact, even SPD MPs on occasion refer to the Development Committee as "the Bundestag's most left wing committee."

Committee Chairman Holtz rejects this sort of labelling, saying that even the previous Committee had leftist MPs. All that talk about "the most left committee" is harmful to its work, says Holtz.

Even so, a close watch should be kept on the Committee to see the extent to which the left wingers will try to influence its work.

Klaus Broichhausen

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 28 January 1981)



Elmar Pieroth
(Photo: Sven Simon)

Investment guarantee for oil cash 'would hold the key'

Unless German industry steps up investments abroad, this country's position as the second largest trading power will be in jeopardy, according to ex-President Walter Scheel, now Supervisory Board chairman of the German Development Corporation (DEG). He says that Third World countries especially are faced with dramatically rising balance of payments deficits and therefore now depend even more on private investments than before. Every deutschemark invested by the government-owned DEG triggers DM7 in additional investment. This makes the DEG more efficient than any other public development aid measures, most of which do not generate additional investment.

The DEG has begun its 20th year of business with a capital of DM1bn. And the corporation can now fall back on experience in virtually all Third World countries, where it has been instrumental in bringing about numerous joint ventures with subsidiaries of European companies.

It also has considerable cooperation experience with investment banks in industrial and developing countries.

This makes it an ideal instrument of the Bonn government for tackling new development projects — and there are more of these than Bonn can handle.

The oil situation has become increasingly dramatic and many oil-importing developing countries now find themselves in energy and foreign exchange crises.

So it is in the West's interests that as much as possible of Opec's foreign exchange reserves be channelled to the Third World. And there is no better way of doing this than through investment.

This is so important that Bonn should not hesitate to guarantee the investments of the oil sheikhs in the Third World.

This is unlikely to meet with any difficulties once a decision has been made in principle to permit some Opec countries to hold equities in the DEG. This capital would then automatically benefit from supporting measures.

Such a concession would be perfectly justifiable in terms of the economy as a whole if it were to persuade some of the sheikhs to give up their fence-sitting.

In view of our continued dependence on oil (we have so far failed to take energetic measures to reduce it) we have a vital interest in making some Opec members produce oil beyond their foreign exchange needs.

Moreover, we must do everything in our power to prevent the economic collapse of oil-importing developing countries.

But so far the oil sheikhs have shown little interest in Third World investment. So why not make more palatable by giving them an opportunity to have a share in the DEG and so participate in German or Western industry. All that is needed is a change of statutes.

Our own balance of payments deficit is such that a foreign exchange injection would be most welcome.

This would also improve the DEG's relations with the trade unions, which are worried that German investments abroad will deprive Germans of jobs, despite conclusive evidence that such investments help secure jobs at home in the long run.

This additional function of the DEG (i.e. the participation of rich Opec countries in projects in the industrial world, and particularly in Germany) could also make the unions see the international division of labour in a more favourable light.

It can only promote the willingness to cooperate if the DEG gets off its one-way road.

Detractors could say that the likely size of such projects would not warrent the effort and the expenditure. But this is not so because of the high quality of such participation — in fact, a quality so outstanding that other industrial nations could well decide to emulate the DEG.

Furthermore, it does not take too much imagination to see that the size of the projects could well be very much larger than is now assumed.

Heinz Heck

(Die Welt, 21 January 1981)

ENERGY

Ruling the waves, and thereby keeping the light switch on

The oceans can be harnessed in several ways as a source of electric power.

Various methods make use of tidal waves, normal waves, water temperature, currents, and the mixture of fresh and salt water in river estuaries.

This article will outline the various processes and the techniques available.

It will then assess the potential importance of this virtually untapped source of renewable energy from the German viewpoint.

Tidal energy harnesses the difference in water level between ebb and flood, which can be up to 20 metres. Dornier reckon there are only 37 world locations suitable.

The only such place in the Federal Republic of Germany is the Jade Bay, near Wilhelmshaven on the North Sea coast.

Two separate basins are needed to convert into kinetic energy the energy potential of different water levels by means of turbines.

The usual procedure is to use the sea as one and a bay as the other, with a dam or barrage between the two. It is a technique pioneered by the French.

Since the mid-60s they have run the Rance tidal power station on the French Atlantic coast. It generates 240 megawatts.

The most important criterion in converting tidal energy into electric power is the tidal range, which must not be less than five metres.

That is why a Jade Bay barrage has yet to be given serious consideration. The difference in water level between ebb and flood is only three metres.

The major drawback of this source of energy is the fluctuation in energy supply that is inevitable when the tide only comes in or goes out when it does.

So experts are wondering whether it might not be better to use the pressure built up by the tidal range instead, compressing air in pressure chambers and enabling power to be generated continuously.

Similar problems arise in connection with waves as a source of primary energy. They too are irregular and more or less coincidental. In a survey for the Bonn Research Ministry V. Behrendt concludes that an estimate of world potential is impossible.

With waves both the potential energy (the difference in pressure between crest and trough) and the kinetic energy (the movement) can be harnessed.

The converters are designed accordingly, ranging from buoys that convert fluctuations in pressure into electric power to units that work along waterwheel lines.

In Algeria experience has also been gained with canals that grow steadily narrower, speeding the waves to drive a turbine.

Alternatively the water could be run up a ramp and collect in a storage basin at a higher level.

Wave power stations have so far been mainly pocket-sized units to power buoys and lighthouses, but a number of plans have been drawn up for exploiting wave power on a larger scale.

Eighteen months ago Dornier published a survey claiming that wave power could be exploited at reasonable expense by using the primary energy converter as a pump.

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The wave-powered pump out at sea would be linked to a land-based generator, or alternatively to a compressed-air storage tank, a pump storage works, a desalination plant or basins in which algae are bred to produce biological fuel.

The Bonn government has so far invested DM400,000 in marine energy research, but a survey commissioned in the mid-70s concluded that in comparison with other, secondary energy producers wave power stations would for the Federal Republic be neither technically nor economically competitive for the time being.

Other countries take a more optimistic view. Over the past century 350 patents have been applied for in respect of converters in Britain, where a competition to find the most economic design is currently in progress.

The *New Scientist* recently reported that the British government is to award a prize to the most promising design submitted in 1982 so that its inventor can build the device and test it in scale model in operational conditions.

Wave converters, it is reckoned, might well meet a quarter of Britain's power requirements, the aim being to generate electric power at less than 24 pfennigs per kilowatt hour.

Japan is testing the *Kaimei*, a buoy 80 metres long. The air displaced by the rise and fall of the wave surface powers a turbine genset.

This experiment is the first time in the history of such systems that electric power generated at sea has been piped to the coast by cable.

In addition to Japan, America, Canada, Britain and Ireland are associated with the project, which is partly financed by the International Energy Agency, Paris.

Lockheed are working on another principle, the wave dam atoll. It relies on a gigantic dome, the atoll, that is lowered into the water. Only the tip protrudes.

The effect, induced by the artificial reduction in water depth, is that waves break on the dome, flowing into guide wings in the centre of the atoll.

The water is then channelled into a cylinder below the centre of the dome where it flows down in a spiral, powering a turbine wheel before emerging below the structure and flowing back into the sea.

The advantages of this design, Lockheed say, are that wave energy is concentrated and energy loss cut to a minimum. The wave dam atoll is designed to generate two megawatts and is scheduled to be operational by 1986.

Lockheed are also the company behind the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion unit tested off Hawaii last year, where it generated a steady 10 kilowatts.

The US Department of Energy plans to commission by 1985 pilot projects to generate between 10 and 40 megawatts from surface heat in tropical waters.

As estimated by E. Knoernschild 3,000 thermal power stations in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico could generate 285,000 megawatts in a working year of 7,000 hours.

This is four times the amount of installed power station capacity in the Federal Republic of Germany at the present time.

Yet even with 2,000 such power stations the heat loss would be so great that the chill would be felt out into the mid-Atlantic.

Other locations suitable for floating thermal power stations would be, for instance, the approaches to the Red Sea and off New Guinea, Java and the Philippines.

How do they work? The technique, with which experiments were conducted 50 years ago off Cuba, is based on the establishment of a thermal circuit in which surface water of up to 28°C is cooled by 5°C water from the lower reaches of the ocean.

A distinction is made between a closed circuit and an open one. In the former, energy is transferred to a medium, ammonia, via heat exchangers. The ammonia, converted into steam, powers a turbine.

One of the difficulties with a closed circuit is fouling by algae on the water surface of the heat exchangers, which play a vital role in the process.

Open circuits are less prone to fouling and are currently envisaged by the Westinghouse Corp.; Dyckerhoff & Widmann, the German civil engineers, are to build the prestressed concrete pontoons.

The open circuit functions as follows. Warm sea water is fed to a condenser, where some of it is condensed by virtue of the low pressure. The steam powers a turbine, then runs into another condenser, where it is condensed by being mixed with cold water.

The resulting low pressure accelerates the steam current, but as very little steam is created, the process calls for very large units. The diameter of the proposed condensation surface is put at 100 metres in this German-American joint project.

The *Technology Review*, published by the MIT, has come out in favour of this category of marine power station, emphasising their expected lifespan of 40 years.

By the time pilot projects are launched the magazine's editors hope investment outlay will be cut to between $1,000 and $1,500 per kilowatt.

The current investment outlay per kilowatt for a nuclear power station assumed to start operation in the Federal Republic of Germany this year is roughly DM1,550.

The corresponding figure for a coal-fired power station would be about DM1,000.

A further opportunity of harnessing the power of the ocean is in river estuaries where osmosis will create pressure when salt water comes into contact with fresh water.

Laboratory trials envisage vertically valve arrays using this pressure to hoist fresh water to a reservoir 20 metres above the existing water level. It is then played down over hydroelectric turbines.

Bent Havsteen of Kiel University hopes to exploit the energy potential of the Elbe estuary in this way. He reckons the resulting power should be enough to cater for about 120,000 people.

Last not least, ocean currents are rated unsuitable for power generation because they have so far been found to be too slow to be sufficiently effective.

What, then, about the ecological repercussions of all these processes? As with any encroachment on natural processes, the exploitation of marine energy can be sure to have consequences.

Effects on the climate cannot be ruled out, especially if surface temperatures are reduced over large areas of the sea.

But the utilisation of wave power seems unlikely to have much effect on the environment, whereas (according to V. Behrendt in his survey mentioned above) tidal power stations can be expected to have considerable repercussions on their surroundings.

They range from changes in current in the vicinity to changes in tidal range in the more distant surroundings.

Wolfgang C. Goede

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27 January 1981)

Schmude

Continued from page 4

Schmude was sidelined for a while but could reasonably expect to be in line for consideration in the next reshuffle.

His interim job was that of chairman of the SPD parliamentary party's working group on foreign and security affairs, European and intra-German relations. He was also the party's parliamentary business manager.

In 1978 the Chancellor chose him as Education Minister. It was a Ministry that for years had been racked by disputes with the *Länder* as to who was responsible for what in education policy.

Herr Schmidt was irked by this continual squabbling and sent in Herr Schmude to ensure peace and quiet.

Within a week he conceded without so much as a whimper that the *Länder* held overall responsibility for framing and implementing education policy. There was no intention of disputing this right, he reassured them.

But he went on to pursue this policy to its logical conclusion, which was that even in coordination or the drafting of overall policy concepts Bonn came to have less and less to say, exceptions proving the rule.

Many fellow-Social Democrats agreed that he was right in his fundamental assumption that the Federal government held strictly limited powers in the educational sector.

But there was no reason, they felt, why Bonn should not take the intellectual lead, given that the Standing Conference of *Land* Education Ministers seemed to go in for an unconscionable amount of horse-trading.

In public at least, Herr Schmude has shown no signs of speaking up as the conscience of the nation, rather than the representative of regional interests, on educational policy.

In the Cabinet he has aired his views on general political issues. He is rated a middle-of-the-roader, perhaps slightly left of centre.

In all probability his name was put forward as a likely candidate by Dr Vogel, his immediate predecessor.

Heinz-Joachim Melder

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 28 January 1981)

■ THE CINEMA

German directors lured by America's Ultimate Opportunity

Hans Noever's *Der Preis fürs Überleben* (The Price of Survival) tells a tale full of love and hatred of America, an American critic wrote.

He could doubtless hardly have known that the love-hate relationship of German film directors with the United States is as old as the New German Film itself.

"When you drive round America something happens to you," a German press photographer laconically comments in Wim Wenders' *Alice in den Städten* (Alice in the Cities).

Emptiness, loneliness and distance take on different dimensions in a continent the extent and unlimited expanses of which have come to assume mythical proportions.

Later, in his *Der amerikanische Freund* (The American Friend), Wenders was to return time and again to a sad, desolate district of the gigantic metropolis that is New York City.

New York is also the scene of his latest film, *Lightning Over Water*, which deals with his friendship with Nicholas Ray and with Ray's death.

Another German director, Werner Herzog, painted a similarly sick picture of life in the United States when in *Stroszek* he sent his Kaspar Hauser-like hero over to this inhospitable country.

Bruno S., the hero of *Stroszek*, has a longing for anything that could simply be termed a little warmth. Instead his story ends in desperation, cold and death.

America (and by no means only in the New German Film as exemplified by Wenders and Herzog) exudes anything but a pulsating, fascinating sense of life.

It symbolises a world in which it is well-nigh impossible to live.

So it is surprising that German directors time and again sporadically leave the Federal Republic not for some other European country but for the United States.

They head west across the Atlantic to research and to write, to film and to cut, and, of course, to live.

For years Wenders has been working in Francis Ford Coppola's studios on *Hammett*, his most expensive project yet, while Herzog is trying to find US backers for his Fitzcaraldo project and Syberberg is working at Coppola's on a film about Richard Wagner and Parzifal.

This exodus to the US film world is also surprising because New German Film directors never tire of emphasising that 'Dad's Cinema' is a dead as a dodo.

By this they mean not only the films of their German fathers but also, in particular, the Hollywood product. Especially in the aesthetic context the New German Film began by aiming to provide a counterpoint to the output of the US motion picture industry.

What, then, increasingly weans German directors from the intimate character of the German film to the productivity and internationality of the American industry?

What desire is expressed even more powerfully than all aversion to and ill-will towards the Hollywood film?

Why, of late, do some German filmmakers seem to have decided that there is no way of getting round America?

There is, of course, a financial stimulus behind every film venture in the United States. They hope for a higher output and first-rate working conditions and, perhaps, to strike it rich personally.

In the final analysis they hope to make the breakthrough from promising young filmmaker to international star director that is conceivable only in America with its enormous market and international predominance.

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Continued on page 14

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The home-made balloon took the Wetzel and Strelzyk families over the best-guarded border in the world. They landed in Naila, in Upper Franconia.

Disney have set up their operation in Friedrichshafen, on Lake Constance. They are using a hall in the International Lake Constance Fair buildings.

The huge hall is covered in plastic sheets. At one end is a blue box used for trick shots and from the arm of a heavy-duty crane hangs part of a reconstructed balloon.

"Kill the lights" bellows chunky Hollywood director and Oscar-winner Delbert Mann, waring a parachutist's outfit and boots. The lights go out, the balloon is lifted two metres off the ground and spotlights bathe it in eerie light.

The actors playing Wetzel and Strelzyk and their families rock in the balloon for 15 or 20 minutes. No action, then the balloon is lowered to the ground. Jane Alexander, alias Doris Strelzyk, gets off the iron platform with her husband, the freckled John Hurt, and the baby-faced Beau Bridges and Glynnis O'Connor, who play the Wetzels. Their doubles get into the balloon, are pulled up and wait patiently until the take is right.

In the meantime, actors stand around shivering in their parkas or loll about on chairs, warming their hands against the propane gas radiators.

Then it is time for the midday break and actors and the multifarious assistants head for the fair canteen for salad, fish and goulash.

The scene in which the balloon hits a spot of turbulence is not due to be shot until the afternoon.

There are five different takes of the scene in which Peter Strelzyk tries, at first in vain, to get the hot-air balloon's burner working again.

International film set designer Rolf Zehetbauer, who won on Oscar for his set designs in Cabaret, has built the biggest green set of all time in Friedrichshafen: 300 pines were felled in nearby woods for the woods in the film, apple trees were cut down, there is even a reconstruction of a stubble corn field.

Several weeks ago, Zehetbauer transformed part of Upper Franconia into a replica East German border post, with mine fields and watchtowers, dog training grounds and booby traps.

The media pounced on the Strelzyk and Wetzel families almost as soon as they landed in 1979. A Hamburg news magazine serialised the story of their getaway, paying them several thousand marks.

International film companies jostled for the film production rights with Disney — described by *Stern* as "specialists an harmless fun" — getting the prize.

The film, *Night Crossing*, will cost $11m. The titles originally planned were *Flight to the West* and *Flight to Freedom.*

Although it is a low budget by Disney standards, the makers have spared no expense. Six special balloons alone were built.

The Wetzels and the Strelzyks have gone different ways since coming to West Germany.



Six of the eight balloon escapers whose epic journey is to be commemorated on film; left, Doris and Peter Strelzyk and their two children, Andreas and Frank. At right, Petra Wetzel holds her son, Andreas. Absend are Frau Wetzel's husband, Günter, and their youngest child. (Photo: dpa)

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Martin ...

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 21 January ...)

MEDICINE

TB among children shows 'signs of resurgence'

Two sharply opposed schools of thought have emerged over immunisation against tuberculosis.

Many doctors say that the disease has become so rare in West Germany that immunisation should be discontinued.

But other experts say that the incidence of the disease is much great than statistics indicate and that immunisation procedures should be continued.

According to the medical journal *Medica* the incidence of tuberculosis among children is likely to increase again.

It says this is particularly true of tubercular meningitis which, although barely existing a few years ago, is now quite common.

The reason, evidently, for the resurgence is that not all children born between 1975 and 1977 were immunised at birth.

About one million children missed out during an interim period when, in early 1975, a switch was made from one serum to another.

Some 1,000 children contracted TB between 1975 and 1977, and most of them had to be hospitalised. This means that the risk of infection was about ten times as high as indicated in official information which estimates that a maximum of nine out of 100,000 children contract the disease.

The risk is heightened by the fact that the immunisation of newly born children has not been made compulsory again.

These facts were established by Professors Oskar Vivell (Karlsruhe) and Herbert Genz (Berlin) in separate studies.

One bases his contention on the rising number of TB patients in his hospital while the other has gathered his information from pediatric hospitals nationwide.

The BCG serum was unavailable in the two non-immunisation years and the number of TB cases rose dramatically.

Professor Vivell says that every 700 immunisations prevent one TB case. He maintains that the cost of treating this one case is at least twice the cost of immunising the 700.

These facts have prompted pediatricians to recommend the compulsory TB immunisation of newly borns.

This is particularly necessary for children whose parents had had TV and for the children of foreigners, who are particularly at risk.

The BCG anti-TB serum is essentially a weakened strain of cattle tuberculosis. Having been preserved for more than a decade, these bacteria are harmless though still alive.

They were originally administered orally and are now given by syringe.

This causes a small infection which stimulates the defensive mechanisms.

One welcome side effect of BCG is that it also provides a certain protection against leukemia.

This transpires from observations made in 1970 by Professor F. Ambrosch of Vienna University's Institute for Specific Prophylaxis and Tropical Medicine.

The British medical journal *Lancet* also reported in 1970 and 1971 that there was a link between immunisation with BCG and the drop in the incidence of leukemia.

B. Hems and A. Stuart have come up with evidence that the death rate from leukemia in England and Wales diminished after the introduction of BCG immunisation.

The same was found by J.J. Berkeley in Scotland.

But all *Lancet* articles dealing with this subject provide only quantitative information about the link between BCG and leukemia, while the systematic study by Professor Ambrosch shows that there is a direct causality between BCG and the drop in leukemia.

Though many questions remain unanswered, all observations show that children immunised with BCG are less frequently subject to leukemia and if they do contract it the course of the disease is less severe.

It is therefore possible that BCG immunisation could one day become more important as a protective measure against leukemia than against TB.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 January 1981)

New heart treatment

A new method of treatment for heart patients has been introduced by the Eppendorf University Hospital in Hamburg.

Patients with severe cardiac shock are fed medication directly to the heart via a catheter. This means that just after an infarction the directly administered medication can dissolve the blood clot that has caused the blockage within two to three hours.

As a result, heart damage is reduced and, if the patient receives treatment early enough, the infarction itself can be prevented.

Cardiologists Walter Bleifeld and Detlef Mathey have been testing this method since October. They have so far treated 60 patients, with an 80 per cent success rate.

The method was first used in Germany by the Göttingen University Hospital. It has meanwhile been adopted by American hospitals.

Professor Bleifeld stresses, however, that the whole thing is still in a preliminary stage. But he is certain that the method will eventually be used extensively.

Experience so far shows that the risk the new method involves in emergency cases is only marginally greater than in a routine examination with a heart catheter of coronary blood vessels.

The Eppendorf method was publicly aired at the recent Internists' Congress in Hamburg which centred around heart insufficiency and its treatment.

Half of all deaths are attributable to cardiovascular disorders which makes them even more of a killer disease than malignant tumours.

The main cardiovascular disorders are arteriosclerosis, heart defects and diseases of the heart muscle. Hereditary heart disease plays a relatively minor role due to early diagnosis and treatment.

An inadequate blood supply to the heart and valve defects or destruction of the muscle tissue lead to cardiac insufficiency.

The warning signs are exhaustion — first under stress and later when resting — shortness of breath, chest pain and pain down the left arm.

Digitalis is the most commonly administered drug. Side effects are prevented by painstakingly calculated dosages.

While digitalis stimulates the heart activity, other drugs reduce heart strain. They rinse out water and salt and so reduce the volume of liquid in body and heart.

The Eppendorf specialists have had much experience with long term treatment by medication of heart insufficiencies.

Gisela Schütte

(Die Welt, 26 January 1981)

Tranquillisers 'overused'

Tranquillisers are among the frequently prescribed drug... er this fact should be seen as ... tom of our time and its fears ... sions or whether anxieties that ... use of tranquillisers have always ... remains under dispute.

In any event, the danger of ad... to tranquillisers has been un... mated, according to a study by K... per and Professors Wolfgang and ... Poser of Göttingen University ... was recently published in the ... journal, *Deutsche Medizinische ... chenschrift.*

This is particularly true of the ... commonly used tranquillisers whi... based on benzodiazepine. Using ... molecute as a base, the pharmace... industry has developed a wide ra... drugs that have different effects ... are, for instance, soothing, sleep-... ing drugs and those that pep u... user and relax tensions (used duri... day to relieve anxieties). By far the ... prominent item in this class is val...

There is a spreading realisation ... that these drugs are habit forming.

It was the notion until recently ... valium and similar drugs are not ... tive. Because of this, they becam... most commonly used tranquillisers.

The main evidence of the habit... ing properties of benzodiazepine... drugs was provided in a 1977 natio... survey encompassing 17 years.

The results, which have now ... published, show that the Göttinge... chiatric Clinic treated more patient... benzodiazepine addiction in its ... two-and-a-half years than were ... treated in the entire nation.

The fact that these findings relate... very restricted area in no way ch... their applicability on a national sc...

In view of the enormous consu... worldwide of benzodiazepines the ... of addiction should receive more ... tion.

It is known, for instance, that ...

Continued on page 14

When gritting the teeth is a pain in the head

There are many causes of face pain; and the methods of treatment are equally numerous.

Among the causes, delegates at the World Congress of Dentists heard in Hamburg, are inflammation, rheumatic or degenerative disorders of the jaw joint, changes in muscle tissue and, often, stress.

Some of the pain is due to minor anomalies of the teeth which can be easily corrected by the dentist.

Since X-rays frequently show no pathological change such pain is often attributed to psychological or neuromuscular disorders.

Professor Gunnar Carlsson, of the Göteborg University Dental Clinic, suggested that inflammation of facial muscles is frequently the culprit. Tests, he said, showed that people who grit their teeth can develop facial pains that last for days.

Pathological changes and excessive wear of the joint surfaces can lead to osteo arthritis, the most common jaw joint ailment.

Epidemiological studies show that 22 per cent of the joints of people over 20 are subject to such pathological changes.

If there is a distinct squeak when moving the jaw joints, the reason is more likely than not osteo arthritis.

In the early stages when the organic changes are not yet pronounced it is almost impossible to diagnose the disorder by X-ray. As a result, it is frequently mistaken for psychosomatic pain.

The links between psychological stress and facial pain are well researched. There is clear evidence that muscle activity can be triggered by fear, tension and psychological stress.

The muscle activity caused by stress can express itself by gritting or clenching teeth during the day or at night, resulting in pathological changes of the total denture.

Before treating muscular hyperactivity the doctor must ensure that there is nothing else involved such as tumours.

Frequently, the cure consists in explaining to the patient that stress can cause this muscle activity and the attendant pain and that he can stop this by watching himself and exercising self-control.

If a patient tends to grit his teeth, which can loosen them and cause considerable pain, he can be given a plastic device to bite on.

Most muscle ailments disappear ... out treatment after a few weeks, ... sor Glenn Clark of the Dental F... of Los Angeles University told the ... gress. In most cases, the doctor ... needs to prescribe aspirin.

To shore up this therapeutic m... the patient should treat the painful ... with moist heat and take a light ... that will impose little strain on the ... muscles.

In some cases it is necessary to ... scribe tranquillisers.

Typical muscle pain is unrel... and increases with physical or ... stress. Cold weather also has an eff...

Some cases can be cured by in... local anaesthetics. Should this f... patient must be referred to a p... gist for relaxation exercises or ... to a special pain clinic.

If all these therapeutic method... Professor Clark said, the patient ... have to be told that he will ... learn to live with the pain.

In such cases, the patient only ... come for regular checkups, exercise ... to be supplied with pain killers.

Professor G. Pfeiffer, of H... said that surgery should only be ... where there is evidence of patho... change.

Margot Behr...

(Frankfurter Allgemeine ... für Deutschland, 21 January ...)

THE PRESS

Newspaper men convicted on charges involving stolen photographs

...ive editorial members of the tabloid newspaper *Bild Zeitung* have been ...victed on charges relating to stolen ...otographs.

...sixth was acquitted because of lack ...evidence.

The five were fined and given suspend... prison sentences, by the court in ...ankfurt.

The case involved taking private pho...graphs from the apartment of a man ...pected of drug abuse.

Two teams of the mass circulation ...Bild broke into the young man's ...artment and stole the photographs ...ich were subsequently published in ...e *Bild* editions of 3 and 4 January ...979.

The photographs were used in con...ection with a story entitled "The Vam...re of Saxenhausen" (a borough of ...ankfurt) which alleged that the young ...an had drugged girls and then tapped ...eir blood vessels and drank the blood.

The court held that the editors re...ponsible knew as early as the evening ...ours of 2 January that the photographs ...d been stolen.

Chief reporter Lothar Schindelbeck ...ted as the stand-in for the editor-in-...hief of the Frankfurt edition who was ...t of town at the time.

He was sentenced to 8 months and a ...ne of DM15,000 payable to a private ...ganisation for the rehabilitation of drug addicts. The prison sentence was supended for three years.

Schindelbeck had told the court time and again that he did not understand the charges at all. After all, he said, it was he who forbade the publication of "stolen photographs."

But the bench decided that his version of the story lacked credibility. Referring to the fact that it was impossible to clarify who released the photographs for publication on 3 January, presiding Judge Gehrke said: "It is hard not to ask if it couldn't have been the cleaning woman.

"Schindelbeck knew in the early afternoon already how the photographs had been obtained and took charge of the matter. He then locked up the photographs."

The bench held that Schindelbeck had his career in mind and that he had hoped to enrich himself by means of the photographs due to the royalty system for senior staff members.

In doing so, he might have been motivated by the fact that he had acted on behalf of the editor-in-chief for a few days only and was bent on presenting himself in the best possible light at the Hamburg head office.

The bench did not, however, take into account the prosecution's contention that increasing the circulation could also have played a role.

The sentencing of the acting editor-in-chief led to the acquittal of another accused who no longer works for the paper: Peter Voss, who assigned the teams on instructions from Schindelbeck and who was kept abreast of events by telephone. But after one of these telephone calls, in which the photographer Peter Keller described how the photographs were obtained, Schindelbeck took full charge of the matter.

Keller, who admitted having broken into the apartment and stealing the pictures, was sentenced to pay DM4,000 (in lieu of 70 days imprisonment at DM60 a day).

He was the key figure in the proceedings. In fact, without his admission, of which a note was made as early as January 1979 and which was found in a wastepaper basket in the editorial offices of *Bild Zeitung*, the whole trial might not have taken place.

The court took it as a mitigating circumstance that he stuck to his admission notwithstanding pressure from his colleagues and the Hamburg head office and that he was determined not to engage in further illegal journalistic methods. He had given his notice to *Bild* and was now working as a freelance photographer.

The bench criticised the head of of the publisher's (Axel Springer Verlag) legal department, Renate Damm, who, it said, in January 1979 falsified the record of the statement made by the photographer in Hamburg and whose "evasiveness as a witness in court was a sad spectacle to be presented by a member of the legal profession."

The bench stressed the moral superiority of Keller over his colleagues whose elaborate excuses in their closing statements could not be compared with Keller's repentance.

Reporter Matthias Beckmann, who broke into the apartment together with Keller, was given a five-month suspended sentence and fined DM7,000 again payable to a rehabilitation centre for drug addicts.

The court did not believe his contention that the narcotics squad virtually suggested that he have a look in the apartment if he wanted more information.

Beckmann, who had little to say during the trial, was essentially sentenced on the evidence that transpired from Keller's confession.

A second team (again photographer and reporter) that went to the apartment after Beckmann and Keller and possibly found the place unlocked was sentenced for "simple" larceny.

The court decided that there was evidence that photographer Ernst Danker stole about 20 photographs which he later offered for sale to the illustrated magazine *Stern*.

A note made by *Stern* which was among the court records indicated that he asked DM5,000, which the court assumed to be the "value" of the photographs.

The bench said it spoke against the accused that the damage suffered by the young man whose photographs were stolen would have been even greater had *Stern* also carried the story.

But the *Stern* editors had learned about the investigation that was in progress and decided not to publish.

Dankert was fined DM5,000 and sentenced to four months.

His colleague Willi Machan was seen as a mere "fellow traveller" but his remark in court that he could not always carry the criminal code with him when researching a story did him no good in the eyes of the court.

The bench did not consider the remark a slip of the tongue as depicted by his defence counsellor but held that Machan was not prepared to acknowledge his wrongdoing. He received a three-month sentence and a DM5,000 fine.

The court accepted in mitigation for all the accused the fact that a police report alerting the press to the issue in the first place was exaggerated and that there is tough competition among tabloid newspapers.

But, on the other hand, it also held that they enjoyed great privileges as journalists and that this required a particularly high sense of responsibility.

The court therefore wanted its verdict for all except Keller seen as a warning that the legal order must be enforced.

Thomas Kirn

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 January 1981)

Court accepts allegations of malpractice against tabloid

Cologne author Günter Wallraff, 38, has won a victory in the protracted legal dispute with the tabloid *Bild Zeitung*. The case involved his five-month employment under an assumed name as an editor and the resulting book *Der Aufmacher*.

In the precedent ruling handed down on 20 January by the Federal Court in Karlsruhe, the justices of the 6th Panel decided that the book dealt with important shortcomings of journalistic practices and that this was of considerable public interest.

The charges levelled in the book dealt with internal editorial processes and methods and were of importance for the public discussion and thus legal, provided no names of sources were revealed.

But the justices also said that this did not justify the manner in which Wallraff managed to get himself hired.

This could well preclude the use of such illegally obtained information because Article 5 of the Constitution cannot be used to legalise journalistic practices that are immoral or run counter to existing laws.

But in this case the malpractices by the tabloid as revealed by Wallraff outweighed the illegality of the manner in which the information was obtained.

Wallraff later commented that he was impressed by the ruling and that it had come rather unexpectedly.

On the court's censure of his methods he said that such methods must not be seen as an end in themselves but that they were morally justifiable when a weak party defends itself against a disproportionately stronger one which abuses its power and evades public control.

Bild said that it would take the case to the Constitutional Court. Both the paper and prominent legal experts, a spokesman said, held that the Federal Court ruling was false.

dpa

(Kieler Nachrichten, 21 January 1981)

■ **EDUCATION**

Pupils research life under National Socialism

The topic for the 1981 German History Competition for schools was Everyday Life under National Socialism.

It is a subject which many pupils find almost as remote as Prussian absolutism, according to their teachers.

Judging the competition is going to be hard work, as there are over 40,000 entrants who have busily been collecting material on the subject in the past months.

Dieter Galinski, director of the Kurt A. Körber Foundation, which funds the competition, reckons that it would take one man 52 days and nights to unpack the avalanche of entries — a staggering 1.8 tons of paper.

The young historians taking part in the competition will be looking at questions such as what family life was like in the Third Reich and how people reacted to boycotts of Jewish businesses.

The simple question of How Did People Live in the Third Reich? deepens and becomes more complex: "How did the unjust nature of the system manifest itself in everyday life?"

The chairman of the jury, Hans Neusel, says that eye withness accounts by those who lived at the time are of central importance.

This aspect certainly appealed to the young historians and throughout the country they have asked people who lived through that time to describe their experiences.

The 10th class at Bensheim Liebfrauenschule wrote a letter to the local newspaper asking people to recall what they felt about the destruction of Heppenheim synagogue, the plundering of Jewish shops and the *Reichskristallnacht.*

Pupils at Ramskap technical school in Elmshorn, Schleswig-Holstein, used the services of the school secretary to take calls from local people who wanted to provide diaries or pictures.

Essen mayor Horst Katzor told the headmasters of local schools that the old city synagogue was now being used as an advisory centre for pupils.

A pupil at Brühl grammar school, who last year won a first prize of DM3,000, is this year concentrating on the arianisation campaign in the Tietz department store in Brühl. The local department store not only gave him all the documents he needed but also an office and a secretary of his won.

The ace among these amateur historians comes from the village of Harpstedt, near Bremen: Karl Ulrich Willführ of the Syke grammar school has already won four first prizes.

Competition organiser Galinski, himself a military history expert, says: "The boy has already won DM16,000. There are 20 people in his village whom he often questions. He even quotes his own work. He is a strategist."

DM250,000 of prize money will be distributed among the 35 prize winners, who will receive their prizes from President Carstens.

Galinski reckons the judges will have to read through 250,000 pages. Documents dealing with the Hitler youth, intimidation, "night and fog" swoops, camp fire romanticism and the disappearance of Jewish citizens.

How did it all start? 40,000 young historians will be asking how their parents and grandparents were able to get used to this everyday reality.

Herbert Schütte

(Die Welt, 21 January 1981)

Closer look at Nazi era

Greater attention is to be paid [...] tory lessons at West G[...] schools to local resistance to the [...] regime, the Standing Conferen[...] *Land* Education Ministers has ruled[...]

The conference also decided to [...] greater importance in the curricul[...] keeping the peace by democratic m[...]

It was now clear, the Minister[...] that there had not just been sys[...] resistance by political groups i[...] Third Reich.

There had also been resistance [...] public, refusal to do what the[...] told, passive resistance.

The recommendation on treatm[...] history lessons of resistance durin[...] Nazi era goes back to an idea sug[...] by Justice Minister Hans-Jochen [...] in March 1979.

The ministers also refer to a [...] consideration. It is obvious, the[...] that there were various ideologic[...] political motives for resistance.

Lessons must consider resist[...] the context of Nazi rule as a whol[...] pay due consideration to re[...] movements outside Germany and t[...] activities of German emigrés.

The relevance of lessons about [...] Nazi era is seen in a wider conte[...] shown by a suggestion put forw[...] SPD Bundestag deputy Klaus Imme[...]

Federal President Karl Carstens [...] called for more attention to be p[...] Germany's recent past in school c[...] la. Herr Immer said right-wing ex[...] ism and the danger it represent[...] Germany today ought also to b[...] with.

The ideas fostered by National[...] ism were still potentially danger[...] schoolchildren should be told s[...] d[...]

(Bremer Nachrichten, 13 January [...])

Continued from page 12

Tranquillisers

United States alone some 5 billion prescriptions for these drugs are made out every year.

As with all forms of addiction, treatment of tranquilliser addiction is tedious and costly and the rate of relapse is very high.

Moreover, addiction to tranquillisers is much more common than that with illegal drugs.

Some 50 per cent of the addiction cases at the Göttingen Clinic involved benzodiazepine, frequently in conjunction with alcohol and other drugs.

The number of classical drug addicts was only three per cent, and thus relatively low.

Benzodiazepines have greatly contributed to the pharmacological treatment of psychological disorders, primarily because of their soothing effect.

But since these drugs only relieve symptoms to some extent without curing the root of the problem they should be viewed as only one pillar of a comprehensive therapy which must always include a thorough discussion with the doctor, which is a major element in solving a conflict.

In severe cases that are accompanied by physical symptoms, behavioural therapy is indicated.

Generally, tranquillisers should only be prescribed as part of a comprehensive therapy concept and should never be taken for longer than eight weeks.

Angela Heck

(Die Welt, 24 January 1981)

Continued from page 10

The lure of America

made anywhere else, are fixated on the world in which filmmakers live.

But how is this much-lauded style, how are the handwriting and the world picture of German directors going to change in changed conditions of production and against other backgrounds?

What influence will other landscapes, another language and a different mentality exert on the German cinema? Will it be able to maintain its quality in America?

A number of films made wholly or in part in America by German directors are currently being screened in Germany. They enable us to give a tentative answer to these questions.

Filming in America cannot, for instance, be said to have benefited Erwin Keusch's *Soweit das Auge reicht* (As Far As the Eye Can See).

He tells the tale of Lueg, deaf and the heir to a fortune, played by Bernd Tauber, who gets involved with criminal speculators and scheming women.

In the second half of his film the director quits Germany to fly his loving couple to Las Vegas to get married, to cruise round the bright lights of the gambling palaces and to go for a drive through the desert during which Lueg all but kills himself and his wife.

These US scenes serve only to make the contrived storyline of *Soweit das Auge reicht* even more incredible. By feeling obliged to go international Keusch obliterates what could so easily have been a highlight of the film.

In *Das Brot des Bäckers* (The Baker's Bread), his first film, Keusch's sensitivity and narrative rhythm came as a pleasant surprise.

Here too he could have taken a calm and detailed look at his leading figure, at the hectic speculators and, in particular, at the moods expressed by the landscape.

But he opted for an international backdrop, and America as a scene of the action, although it may have a certain value in portrayal, does the film no good all told.

In *Der Preis fürs Überleben* (The Price of Survival) Hans Noever looks at America with an altogether different degree of intensity.

A toxic garbage scandal in Illinois provides the background against which a detective plot unfolds.

Noever gives a picture postcard description of provincial life in Jefferson City, of small-town hysteria, if individuals and their relationships, their isolation.

Take, for instance, Jim the talkative taxi driver. He takes the reporter for a ride but can hardly be said to get the action on the move.

Spontaneously, almost unwittingly, Noever switches from one thread of the plot to another. Not until the final part of his film does he fit the pieces together into an unclear microcosm.

This microcosm is, however, clearly intended to reflect the United States as a whole. In America the scandal assumes more gigantic proportions than it might be expected to do in a European country, yet at the same time it is more anonymous, more unclarified and less easy to grasp.

Der Preis fürs Überleben could well be said to be more American in the positive meaning of the word than Noever's earlier films; it is certainly his best yet.

He reckons the tale could not have been told against a German background because the details would not have fitted.

The indispensable nature of the original US background also applies to *Lightning Over Water*, the latest film directed by Wim Wenders.

Wenders cut it himself, unmistakably giving it the character of his earlier films. Only in the musical sector does he appear to have developed in any way *towards* America.

He used to prefer soft and harmonic music such as that of Improvised Sound Limited in *Im Lauf der Zeit* (In the Course of Time), but now we hear the harsher, yet subtler songs written by his wife Rooney Blakley.

In *Hammett*, the film on which he is currently working, Wenders says he is going in for a definite change of style. It will be the most classical, conventional film he has ever made.

He makes exclusive use of a panoramic lens for in-depth contrast. The old-fashioned light, neither brightened nor softened, should convey an unusually harsh impression. It is a detective film and, on the whole, the action mov[...] ter than in his previous work.

Yet many hopes Wenders had [...] in America have not been fulfille[d] [...] had planned to spend a year [...] *Hammett* but shooting has already [...] three.

He had hoped to work without [...] subject to control by others but [...] feels he is permanently under [...] What was to have been filmed on [...] tion has now had to be filmed in [...] pola's new studios.

Hammett has long assumed the [...] portions of a meaningful prestige [...] and Wenders is having to subm[...] many necessities of production.

Even so, he aims to stay in Am[...] While a fresh writer is penning [...] end to the film he will start wor[k] [...] next year on *Trap Door*, a film [...] computer crime in the United Stat[es] [...]

Afterwards he may return to a [...] man production in the shape of [...] the novel by Swiss writer Max Frisch[...]

The signs are that by then he [...] have evolved a new and different [...] tic outlook that is a far cry from [...] his 70s films.

The German cinema is heavily s[...] dised and has long been expected to [...] fer from aesthetic overweight. It [...] carefully monitor and consider all s[...] tic and thematic ideas its director [...] from other continents.

American innovations must be [...] for its development but care mu[st] [...] taken to ensure that the New G[erman] Film does not turn into an offshoo[t] [...] Hollywood.

Wolfgang Wi[...]

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Z[...] für Deutschland, 10 January [...])

SPORT

A way to self-assurance for the blind and partly blind

[...]rt can do the disabled a power of [...]ood. Take a 12-year-old blind girl [...]viewed. Her hands were in position [...]he horizontal bar in the gym, her [...]azed blankly into the distance.

[...]e interviewer was embarrassed, not [...] how to address her. Should he take [...] hand to lead her to one side before [...]ioning her?

"What's your name?" the girl asked. [...] being told she simply replied: [...]t's a funny name." She certainly [...]ed no signs of uncertainty or lack [...]urance.

The gymnasium is part of the exten[sive] [...] complex of the Heinrich Hertz [...]ool, which includes a boarding [...]ool section for the blind and partially [...]ted.

There are rails along the passages to [...] pupils to move from one room to [...]ther. The walls of the gym are upholstered. Such are the facts of life for [...]dren and young people who go in [...] sport for the blind.

[...]lind judokas are practising on the [...] Andrea, a little girl, is practising [...] hip swing, time and again. "There [...] are, you see," says coach Udo Krons[hage], "you can do it." She smiles happi[ly].

"Just imagine," says Annedore [Maa]sch, a qualified sports instructor for [...]d and partially sighted children since [...], "there are parents who are so em[barr]assed that they try to hide blind [...] from the public.

"They buy kittens for them to stroke [...] the daytime, taking them out for [...] at night so the neighbours can't [...] them.

"That is how there are blind children [...] cannot even perform the simplest [move]ments, such as running on the spot [...] throwing a ball."

This afternoon Frau Maasch is in the [...] to check the practical work of a [...] instructor. Instructors have to un[dergo] about 150 hours of basic training [...]re they are certified as having been [...]ed to instruct the blind.

The certificate issued by the Hamburg [...]bled Sports Association entitles [...] to training fees of a niggardly [DM]12.50 for an evening session lasting [...]al hours.

[Th]at is all sport for the disabled can [...]d. A small fortune is ploughed into [...]level competitive sport but sport for [...] blind is still run on a shoestring.

[...] this Year of the Disabled the Bonn [...]ior Ministry, which handles sports [...], has promised a one-off grant of [...]3m towards international competi[tion] expenses.

[Fr]au Maasch is indignant. "We can do without government officials [...] only turn up when medals are to be [...]ded," she says. "Here in the gym, [...] everyday world of sport for the [...] I have yet to see one of them."

[...]ere are between 60,000 and 70,000 [...] people in West Germany, with [...]comers more or less daily due to traffic accidents and industrial injuries for [...] most part.

[...]rt for the blind is movement ther[apy] [...] for people who are disabled but oth[erwise] healthy. The medical profession [...]heartedly recommends sport as a [pre]ventive measure to counteract psychic [...]mental upset.

The prospect of boosting the blind [pers]on's self-esteem is particularly bright, and understandably so, in normal movement sequences, a part of life in which he is likely to feel most handicapped.

"It is extremely important fo blind children to come to us as young as possible," says Frau Maasch. "Parents often have no idea what an opportunity they are missing by keeping their children almost exclusively at home."

There is a game of rollerball in progress in part of the gym (but not the film version). The children play on mats on their knees. The objective is to push a medicine ball over the opposing goal line.

There are three children per team. Susi is an old hand at rollerball. Her hearing is so well attuned to the sound of the ball that she makes for the path of the ball as though she could see it clearly.

Birgit is a newcomer. She still has no idea where the ball can be. "Are you scared?" the instructor asks her. "Yes, a little," she admits.

At the tenth attempt Birgit finally makes contact with the ball. She is absolutely delighted.

"Far too few teachers have any idea of sport for the blind," says Frau Maasch. "Young sports teachers who have just qualified as a rule refuse to integrate blind children in gymnastics and sports lessons because they would allegedly upset the routine.

"There are exceptions that prove the rule, but the rule definitely is that movement therapy for the blind is largely left to sports associations and clubs for the disabled."

The girl first mentioned puts her hand in mine and asks me: "Are you going to write an article about us?" "Yes," I say, "and I even have a photographer with me who is going to take snapshots of you using a flash camera."

"What is flash?" she asks. Yet when she asks her instructor where her socks are at the end of the judo lesson he calmly says: "Go into the changing room and have a look for yourself."

As she does so Udo Kronshage, a judo coach and psychology student, says: "I behave in a normal manner with them. If an exercise is still a failure at the tenth attempt I am as annoyed as anyone."

Such normal responses are keenly appreciated by the blind. Sympathy is something they can do without. Peter, a little boy, is near to tears as he practises how to throw an opponent on to the mat as he is falling. Andrea, also blind, has no patience with him. "Do I have to wrap you in cotton wool?" she asks. A distinction is drawn between the blind and the partially sighted. The partially sighted can be a great help to the blind, lending the instructor a hand. Among the blind a distinction is drawn between the blind from birth and those who lost their sight later in life. The latter can still remember what seeing was like and can visualise what things looked like.



A young judoka feeling his way

(Photo: Klaus J. Kallabis)

The blind from birth have no such memories to guide them. For them even such a simple sporting sequence as the run-up in the shot-put or javelin is something completely new.

This means that the two groups need to be treated in completely different ways.

Sighted children learn the motions of walking, washing, putting on their clothes and running by imitation. Blind children lack the stimulus afforded by seeing how others do it.

They are thus unable unassisted to learn how to go about simple sequences — unless they try their hand at sport at an age too early for medals to be awarded. The earlier the better.

Sport can help to stimulate the physical and mental powers of blind children to such an extent that they are enabled to carry out independent, self-assured movements.

But a number of points will as a rule have to be borne in mind in sports lessons for the blind. They must first be allowed to feel their way round the gym.

The instructor must not switch position too often. Since pupils are bound to concentrate on him and his voice, he must try to stay put and to speak clearly and comprehensibly.

There must be as little chatter as possible in the gym. Noise is to be avoided. A mistake the sighted regularly make is to talk too loud in dealings with the blind.

The gym must also be kept in order. Objects left lying around are an obstacle to all blind children, especially the ones who have already grown accustomed to the shape of the gym and the usual arrangement of equipment in it.

"Confidence is crucial," says Frau Maasch. "Verbal explanations are more important than the sense of touch. The blind grasp things mainly by ear, and they can be hopping mad if they feel they are being misled."

Her husband Bernhard is a senior Bundesbahn official in Hamburg. He was blinded in action during the Second World War and ran the Hamburg Disabled Sports Association for years.

A blind child is kneeling on a mat in the gym. Its territory is two steps forward and two steps to either side. "Now get up and go to the bar," the instructor says.

The child does so, blindly. Confidence is indeed all-important as the instructor says: "Two more steps!" And how happily the child smiles when it gets there!

"They go in for sport in just the same way as anyone else," says Frau Maasch. "They are just as keen and just as ambitious; but they benefit more."

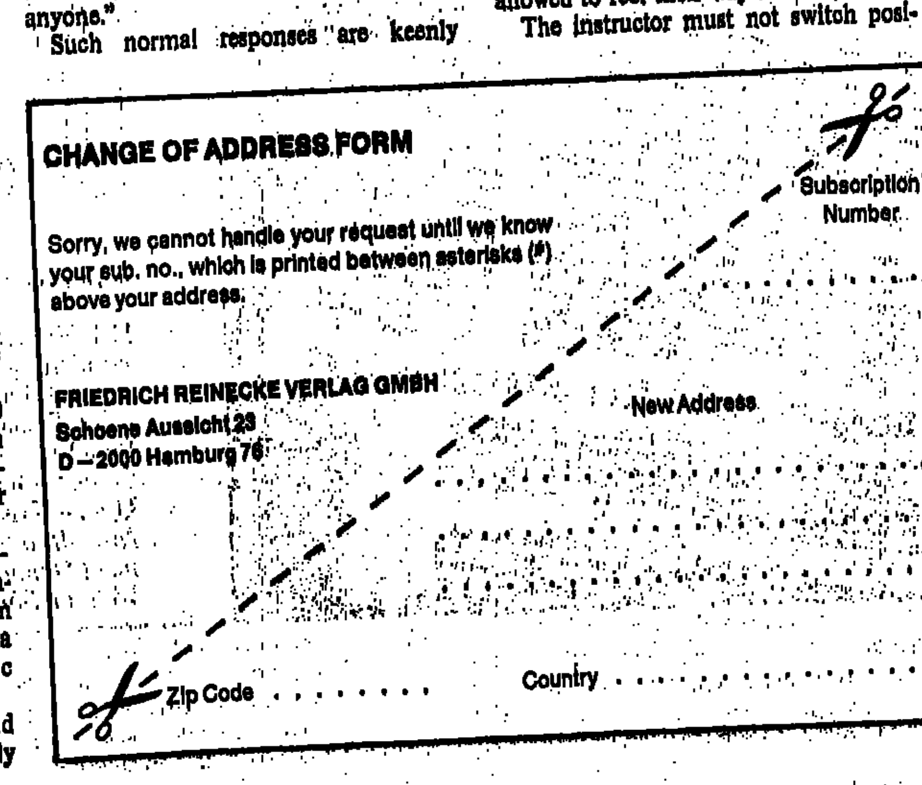
There have been fine words to mark the Year of the Disabled, and more are sure to follow. But the everyday life of the blind is sure to go on unnoticed as before by the speechmakers.

"We do this more or less free of charge," says instructor Udo Kronshage. "You can't buy much for DM12.50, certainly not the new judo mat the new group so badly need."

"What do you mean by saying that we need contact with the public?" asks Andrea as she is led outside. I was at a loss to explain.

Gerhard Seehase

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 January 1981)



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